



People of faith, working together for harmony in Hounslow.

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Guide for improving youth participation and dialogue in community groups

A [freely-available online publication](#) by the Inter Faith Network for the UK on the theme of youth engagement may be of interest to HFOF members.

Hounslow—London Borough of Culture 2021

Hounslow is bidding to be awarded this status in a few years time. It will put culture at the heart of the community, celebrating the unique and distinctive creativity, character, and diversity of London's boroughs. In order to develop the proposal, the borough staff are inviting contributions on what culture means to individual residents, what the borough already offers that is attractive culturally, and what more can be done.

The aim is to convince the Mayor's office with this proposal and use this award as a launching pad to boost cultural attention and investment across the borough, building an unstoppable movement of people, ideas, and opportunity.

[Hounslow's bid can be supported and researched further online.](#)

The British Library — Sacred Texts online database

[Discovering Sacred Texts](#) is a new free British Library online learning resource, inviting visitors to explore the world's major faiths through the Library's extensive collection of sacred texts.

Available to all, the new website includes over 250 digitised collection items, teachers' resources, short films, and articles written by academics, faith leaders and practitioners, library curators, and cultural leaders. Over a hundred of these items are being made available online for the first time.

Designed for students, teachers, and lifelong learners, it features the six most-practised faiths in the UK—Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Sikhism, as well as a number of other faiths including the Bahá'í Faith, Jainism, and Zoroastrianism.

Community training for prevention of young suicide

Hounslow Friends of Faith have been contacted by [Papyrus](#), the national UK charity and helpline, to explore the possibility of conducting training workshops in Hounslow for community

leaders and other group representatives on this vital issue.

All are reminded and encouraged [to be aware of and discuss this matter](#) within their own communities groups, and to [contact the HFOF Secretary](#) to register possible interest for suicide prevention awareness raising and training with Papyrus.

Become a Community Health Champion

Health Champions are people who, with relevant and free training and support, aim to transform the health and well-being of their friends, families, colleagues, and communities.

Hounslow Health Champions are part of the new Help Your Health programme—designed to reduce health inequalities in Hounslow through a programme of information, training, and volunteering.

The council will be running 2 free workshops for new Community Health Champions to help them understand how effective communication can support health messages and how to promote improvements in health and well-being to individuals.

Day 1 takes place on Wednesday 6 November 10am - 3pm, and Day 2 on Thursday 7 November 10am - 3pm.

The workshops will be held in the [CAN Mezzanine, 2nd Floor, The Treaty Centre, High Street, TW3 1ES](#).

Attendance on both days is necessary to complete the training and become a Health Champion.

[Further details and workshop registration are available online.](#)

Hate crime in Hounslow

In the 3 years since the Brexit Referendum (June 2016 – June 2019) 2,303 hate crimes have been reported to the police in Hounslow.

This compares to 1,729 reports in the 3 years prior to Brexit (May 2013 – May 2016). Councillor Katherine Dunne, Cabinet Member for Communities and Workforce said: "Hate crime is something that there is no place for in Hounslow. No one should be victimised or attacked because of who they are." "We want to reach out to all our communities to raise awareness of the issue and get our message out loud and clear that this will not be tolerated, and we all need to safeguard the vulnerable. If you or anyone you know has experienced hate crime, please get in touch



with our Hate Crime Advocate. Nobody should have to suffer in silence.”

Supplemental background reading on the latest hate crime figures, including national and international perspectives is [available online](#).

The contact number for the Hounslow Hate Crime Advocate is 020 8583 2464, they can also be [contacted by email](#).

[The option to report hate crime online is also available.](#)

Weekly on Friday

Feltham Police Community Boxing Club

Children, teenagers, and adults are all invited to [Springwest Academy, Browells Lane, Feltham, TW13 7EF](#) for weekly boxing classes. Those 10-14 years of age box from 5:30-6:30pm, and those 14 years and above box from 6:30-8pm.

Subscriptions are £3 for those under 18 years of age including students, and £4 for working adults.

PC Chris Martin runs this club to give self-confidence to (especially young) people through boxing, including non-contact classes. He is looking for other halls available to hire in order to hold more classes and expand the club's reach. Those who can help are encouraged to contact PC Martin.

The club can be followed online on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and through their [website](#).

Saturday 19 October

“Gospel Explosion” - diversity concert

A multicultural and interfaith concert was held at [St Leonard's Church in Heston](#) to celebrate Black History Month, in October. Groups featured in the performance programme included the Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir, Hounslow Gujarati Gospel Choir and Faith Dancers, St Leonard's Youth Church, and Lucky-Joel Nigerian Gospel Choir.

[Photos of the event have been made publicly available online.](#)

Sunday 27 October

Bicentenary of the birth of the Báb celebrations

The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Hounslow organised a tribute, followed by two days of celebrations, to mark the anniversaries of the births of the Báb—the Prophet-Herald of their faith, and of



Bahá'u'lláh—the founder of their faith. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Báb.

The tribute was held at Chiswick Pier House on Sunday 27 October, and the Twin Holy Days, immediately following that Sunday, were the official days of celebration for the birth of the Báb on Monday and then Bahá'u'lláh on Tuesday.

Highlights of the tribute evening on Sunday, attended by some 80 members of the community, were the puppet show, the poetry readings, and singing, all reflecting on the life of the Báb.

The Bahá'í International Community has created [a website](#) for those wishing to learn more about this special year for the Bahá'í community and how it is being observed worldwide. In addition, [Dawn of the Light](#) is a publicly available movie released in conjunction with the Bicentenary, that tells the real-life stories of 8 different Bahá'ís and their communities around the world and how they are marrying their faith with modernity, and with traditions that do not easily synchronise with their faith in 2019.

Tuesday 29 October

Refugees Welcome Hounslow Annual General Meeting 2019

Refugees Welcome Hounslow (RWH) members and supporters gathered at the [Hounslow Jamia Masjid and Islamic Centre](#) to reflect upon the successes and lessons learnt from welcoming 10 households over the past few years.

Furthermore, a short movie made of interviews of the first group of 10 households was debuted and will be made publicly available online in due course.

It has been confirmed that Hounslow will be welcoming 12 more individuals over the next year. The



working relationship between the RWH Executive Committee, the befriending volunteers network, and the council, continues to strengthen, and the support services provided to the arrivals have improved as a result.

A planned rotation of the RWH chairperson was successfully voted through. Particularly pleasing to see was that all members of the Executive Committee, and indeed also the wider volunteer group of RWH members, wished to continue working for the group. A further encouraging sign was the welcoming of two new Executive Committee members.

The year ahead holds more work and challenges for the group than ever: finding rental properties, making them homely, and supporting arrivals' personal and career development.

Those able to help with any of these should [contact RWH by email](#), or on [Facebook](#).

Friday 1 November

The Breadwinner movie screening and dinner party

The [Afghanistan and Central Asian Association](#) hosted a screening of this [2017 movie](#) in the Griffin Centre in TW14. It was accompanied by a buffet and traditional Afghani music.

Saturday 9 November

Richmond Synagogue interfaith remembrance service

All faith and belief groups are welcome to this gathering on [Lichfield Gardens, Richmond, TW9 1AP](#) beginning at 7:30pm.

Sunday 10 - Sunday 17 November

National Inter Faith Week 2019

A special time of year for people of all faith and belief backgrounds to come together, [this week](#) is always a good opportunity to strengthen interfaith relations at all levels, to increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society, and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

This week will begin with [Remembrance Sunday](#), for which ceremonial gatherings will take place in all parts of the borough at local War Memorials.

During the week there are to be Sikh celebrations to mark the 550th anniversary of the birth of the founder of the faith, Guru Nanak, across the borough. [The programme for events at the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha are available online.](#)

West Thames College will also host special public events for Interfaith Week involving its students.

Saturday 9 - Sunday 10 November

Guru Nanak's 550th Birthday - celebration and HFOF stall

Taking place during Inter Faith Week at the [Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha on Alice Way](#), all are invited to come and observe the commemoration rituals, and share in the food and festivities. Also on offer are various exhibitions and interfaith seminars and talks.

On the Sunday, three presentations in particular may be of special interest to Hounslow Friends of Faith supporters:

- 2pm - "A Jewish view on Guru Nanak" given by Basil Mann
- 2:30pm - "A Muslim's view on Guru Nanak" given by Imam Atta-ur-Rahman Khalid
- 3pm - "A Christian's view on Guru Nanak" given by Dr Joy Barrow

HFOF will have a stall set up there, so this is an excellent opportunity to come and discuss any HFOF matters. New faces would be especially welcome.



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Tuesday 12 November

Understanding 'Honour'-Based Violence

[South West London Humanists'](#) Annual Lecture this year at Kingston University will feature Sarbjit Kaur Athwa and former Detective Chief Inspector Dr Clive Driscoll.

Sarbjit was the first person within a family connected with an 'honour' killing to testify in open court in this country. She went on to found the charity [True Honour](#), which supports victims of 'honour'-based violence, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation, especially those from South Asian communities. Clive Driscoll was the policeman who dealt with her case, and is now Vice-Chair of the charity.

This is a cultural issue which seems not to be specific to any particular faith. But it is a real—and terrifying—problem for those (mainly young women) affected.

The lecture is free, and open to everyone, though the organisers do kindly request donations to the charity on the day. As space is limited, it is important to [register in advance using this link](#), which also gives further event details.

Wednesday 13 November

West Thames College Inter Faith Week fair

From 12 noon to 2pm, the annual activities fair will be held in and around the foyer of the college, with a stall organised by Hounslow Friends of Faith. Other stalls with food, puzzles, as well as arts and craft activities, will be on offer. All are welcome to attend.

Wednesday 13 November

Interfaith afternoon tea meet

Multicultural Richmond and Richmond InterFaith Forum are hosting an afternoon tea meet at the [Whitton Community Social Club on Percy Road, Twickenham, TW2 6DW](#).

Those interested should [email Peter Hart](#), or else get in touch via phone: 020 8392 1425.

Wednesday 13 November

800 years of faith and belief

[Richmond Inter Faith Forum](#) invites all to a series of presentations between 3-5pm on the events and changes that have occurred in the major world

faiths since 1219. This is both an Inter Faith Week event and part of the celebrations of 800 years since the foundation of [St Mary Magdalene Richmond church on Paradise Road, TW9 1SN](#).

Those interested should [email Peter Hart](#), or else get in touch via phone: 020 8392 1425.

[Further event details are available online](#).

Thursday 14 November

Life After Death?

HFOF invite all to the Baitul Wahid Mosque, Raleigh Way, Hanworth Park, TW13 7NX, for a meeting on the subject of the afterlife.

This special Inter Faith Week event will offer several short presentations on the theme from different faith or belief perspectives, there will be discussion in small groups and then a plenary session.

Refreshments from 6:30pm. Meeting will run from 7-9pm. Parking is available. Access to the meeting room will involve climbing stairs and there is unfortunately no lift available.

Those wishing for further information can [contact Barbara McIntivey by email](#) and on 07928345959.

Sunday 17 November

Guru Nanak's 550th Birthday - One Humanity seminar

As part of birthday tribute and celebration, the [Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha](#) is hosting a seminar of talks and discussion in both Punjabi and English, given by Dr Asma Qadri, Dr Sujinder Singh Sangha OBE FRSA, and Lord Indrajit Singh CBE. The seminar will explore how Guru Nanak's poetry, and political philosophy point towards a one humanity model.

It will be held from 3-5pm in the new building of the Gurdwara.

[The official flyer for the event is available online](#). It is free to attend.

Wednesday 20 November

Understanding Islam: Muslim views of Christianity

A study day led by Dr Chris Hewer is taking place from 10am to 4pm at the [Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Road, Richmond, TW9 1DH](#).

There is no charge to attend, donations are kindly requested to cover event running costs.



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Drinks will be provided, attendees should bring their own meals for lunch.

Monday 27 January 2020

Holocaust Memorial Event

More details to follow in December issue.

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

Friday 1 November

All Saints' Day

Christian remembrance of saints and martyrs.

Saturday 2 November

All Souls' Day

Christian remembrance of all their fellow departed faithful.

Saturday 9 - Sunday 10 November

Milad ul-Nabi

Muslim commemoration of the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.

Sunday 10 November

Remembrance Sunday

Commemoration (N.B. 11 November this year falls on a Monday) of the sacrifice of those from the armed forces who died during the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts.

Tuesday 12 November

Birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Sikh honouring of the birthday of the founder of the faith. This year marks the 550th anniversary.

15 November - 24 December

Nativity Fast

Orthodox Christian fasting period begins, in preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

Sunday 24 November

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahdur

Sikh time of remembering the execution of Teg Bahadur by the Moghul Emperor in India.

Tuesday 26 November

Christ the King

Christian celebration of the preeminence of Jesus over all earthly authorities.

Tuesday 26 November

Day of the Covenant

Bahá'í celebration of the covenant given in the last will and testament of Bahá'u'lláh.

Thursday 28 November

Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Bahá'í celebration of the rising of the spirit of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the son of the religion's founder, to the heavenly dwelling.

Saturday 30 November

Saint Andrew's Day

Christian observance of the coming of Christianity to the area now known as Scotland. The martyrdom of St Andrew is remembered as the season of Advent is about to begin.

We provide hyperlinks to the relevant organisation/event web page for each piece included above, wherever possible. Please check these for full details especially for event RSVPs and attendance instructions. This is particularly relevant for respecting food, dress, and behaviour codes that may differ between faith and belief traditions and between premises. Thank you for your consideration.

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a HFOF member, or have expressed interest concerning interfaith matters.

Unsubscribe requests should be sent to the HFOF Secretary by email, or by text message (see below). In either case, the subject line "Unsubscribe from HFOF" should be included.

Please circulate this newsletter within your organisation if you are the nominated person (e.g. Interfaith Officer, Community Liaison, etc.). If there is someone else to whom this newsletter should be sent, please inform the HFOF secretary accordingly.

The deadline for contributions to this monthly newsletter must reach the editor by the 25th of the previous month. For instance, submissions for inclusion in the March 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 help the production of this newsletter to serve our community would not be possible.



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