

Newsletter

July 2018

Keeping you up to date with Hounslow Friends of Faith

A bumper edition this month, with reports and news of events across the summer and into the autumn.

HFOF is looking for a new newsletter editor. If you are interested, do get in touch via the contacts on the last page.

OM Day 8th July

The 19th Anniversary Celebration of OM Day takes place on Sunday 8th July, 1pm to 5pm at the London Buddhist Vihara, The Avenue, Chiswick, W4 1UD. The President of The Buddhist Society, Dr Udayan Chakrabari will give a keynote address on the Role of Indogenic Religions in preserving Peace, followed by speakers from the Hindu, Jain and Sikh traditions. There will also be a cultural and musical programme. Vegetarian meals will be served. All welcome.

Fundraiser for cataract surgery 15th July

Live Hindi film songs and gazals and a three course meal are being organised on Sunday afternoon 15th July 2pm to 7pm at the Kingsway Banqueting Restaurant, 270 Bath Road TW4 7DF opposite Hounslow West tube station. Tickets are £22.50. Proceeds go to Able Charitable Hospital to fund free cataract operations in rural India. To book contact Bharti on 07736 704383.

Our differences are much more interesting than our similarities – Living together in the 21st Century

This is the argument which Clive Lawton will present at what promises to be a lively talk at St John's Church Hall in Isleworth on Wednesday 18th July at 7.30pm. Individually and as communities, while we share our common humanity, we have different traditions and outlooks on life. How can we live together amicably and productively?

Clive is a well known Jewish educationalist, writer and broadcaster who has written widely on religion, moral and religious education. He has contributed to Radio 4's Thought for the Day. He is an engaging speaker and we can expect an entertaining and stimulating evening. The talk will be preceded by HFOF's AGM at 7pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Full address: St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Isleworth TW7 6NY

Arts Events

Two exhibitions are running over the summer displaying the art and craftsmanship of the Indian Subcontinent.

In the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace is **Splendours of the Subcontinent** showing examples of 400 years of South Asian art in the Royal Collection from exquisite Mughal paintings, to dazzling jewellery and elaborate weaponry presented to the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) on his tour of British India in 1874. Adult admission is £12 (concessions apply)

which lasts for a year. Open daily until 14th October. For more details see <https://www.royalcollection.org.uk/visit/the-queens-gallery-buckingham-palace>

Empire of the Sikhs at the Brunei Gallery is a major exhibition presented by the UK Punjab Heritage Association featuring a glittering collection of stunning objects and works of art that reveal the remarkable story of the Sikh Empire, and the European and American adventurers who served it.

Address: Brunei Gallery, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG. Nearest tube Russell Square. Open Tuesday to Sunday until 23rd September. Admission free. <https://www.empireofthesikhs.com/>

HFOF's Women's Group are visiting this exhibition on Saturday 11th August. Meet at Osterley Tube station at 10am. Contact Divya on 07931 944790.

Comedy at Hounslow Arts Centre 25th July

Hardeep Singh Kohli and Ashley Blaker are performing their Edinburgh Festival Fringe preview for one night only at the Hounslow Arts Centre in the Treaty Centre on Wednesday 25th July. Glaswegian Sikh Hardeep mixes worldly wit with fabulous punchlines. Ashley shows how it's possible to be an orthodox Jew and a stand up comedian with his new show direct from his off-Broadway run. Book early for a fun evening. <http://www.hounslowartscentre.co.uk/shows.html> or ring 020 3790 8342.

Gunnersbury Museum reopens

Gunnersbury Museum reopened on 23rd June after a full refurbishment funded by

the Lottery and Hounslow and Ealing Councils. The diverse collections provide an insight into the heritage and culture of Ealing, Hounslow and the surrounding areas.

Highlights include the famous Lucozade sign, formerly visible from both the A4 and M4, block-print designs by Brentford based textile designer Joyce Clissold and a headdress from an Indian wedding. Many of the items in the collections have a very local story, creating a real connection with the lives of west Londoners past and present.

The Museum is keen to continue to acquire relevant items that tell the stories of the past and hear about the lives of modern-day residents from all cultures and backgrounds. Throughout the museum, there are places to contribute personal stories and experiences.

The Park and cafe are open daily. The Museum is open Tuesday to Sunday plus bank holidays, 10 – 4.30. See <http://www.visitgunnersbury.org/>

Directory of community assets

Many of us look around for a room for a meeting or longer term for a base for a regular activity. Many places of worship have a hall or other space which they are willing, in fact eager to rent out for community use, long or short term. Community Partnerships Unit are working with Hounslow Community Network to review the current list of spaces for hire across the borough. The aim is to develop an online Community Information Guide to be launched next month.

Organisations will be invited to register and obtain their own log-in details, enabling them to keep their record up to date themselves. This will allow groups

to promote spaces available to rent as well as any services they offer e.g. drop in cafes, food banks, youth clubs etc which are open to the community (i.e. not just for their own or potential members).

If you have a space in your building which you hire out, please send details to Beverley Fyffe, Vice Chair of Hounslow Community Network on Beverley.fyffe@ageukhounslow.org.uk or to Aine Hayes on Aine.Hayes@hounslow.gov.uk

Life Skills courses

Do you run training or support sessions on such skills as basic DIY, car maintenance, first aid, money management, debt counselling, cooking on a low budget, job readiness? Or do you know of such courses being provided by other voluntary groups?

Liz Gers of the Community Partnerships Unit of Hounslow Council is finding out what services are already available at community level and where there are gaps in both the offer and location. If you can provide any information please contact Liz Gers on Liz.Gers@hounslow.gov.uk

Refugees Welcome Hounslow Summer Garden Party 21st June

Six households from Syria have now arrived in Hounslow, as part of the borough's contribution towards the Government's resettlement scheme for refugees from the area. Refugees Welcome Hounslow, an offshoot of Hounslow Friends of Faith, organised a celebration in the vicarage garden at St Paul's Grove Park in Chiswick. The group is providing befrienders to supply

a few extras and show the households the ropes,

Surprise guest was former HFOF Vice Chair Tom Gillum who came all the way from Nottingham to join the party. Delicious food from Syria and elsewhere was shared.

'Thank you Britain' declared one of the new arrivals. A fitting event in the week of World Refugee Day.

If you can help with fundraising, befriending or know of a two bedroomed property for rent for two years, contact refugeeswelcomehounslow@gmail.com

Cricket training

Hounslow Jamia Masjid are working with the English Cricket Board (ECB) to run one of their cricket programmes 'Chance to Shine' for youngsters aged 8 to 18 every Wednesday evening 6-8pm in the Mosque car park. Contact Asim Suleman on 07971 070913 to know more. Discussions are under way to see if this can be extended for girls and younger children. Watch out Pakistan and India!

Charity Car Wash 21st July 12 – 6

Need to get your car washed in July? Drop in on Hounslow Jamia Masjid, Wellington Road South TW4 5HU between 12 noon and 6pm and it will be done for you. All proceeds go towards the mosque extension fund.

Faiths in Isleworth get together

Isleworth has a range of Christian denominations and a flourishing Muslim community. Faith leaders in Isleworth have met to get to know each other and plan to keep in contact. An afternoon

social is planned for Saturday 28th July from 2pm to 4pm at St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Isleworth TW7 6NY.

Anyone who worships in Isleworth is welcome to come along. For catering purposes it would be helpful to let Fi Budden know on fibudden@allsoulschurch.org.uk

Walk of Peace and Friendship

Our 2018 Walk visited Feltham on 24th June with, in the words of local MP Seema Malhotra, once again the message of the value of walking in each other's footsteps and through each other's doors. Mayor of Hounslow Councillor Samia Chaudhary also attended and commended the work of Hounslow Friends of Faith.

At the Athula Dassana Buddhist Centre in Hanworth monk Bhikkhu Assaji explained Buddhist philosophy and practice before the community members served lunch. At the Riverside Vineyard Church in Browells Lane Senior Pastor Andy Chapman explained the work of the church in general and in meeting the needs of the area. He described their newly completed community centre and the Storehouse Project which provides food and equipment to families in difficulties.

There was another warm welcome at HIRA (the Hounslow Islamic Relief Association). Imam Sheikh Mohammed Sayed gave a short talk on Ramadan before a tour of the centre. He joined the group for the final visit to St Lawrence's Catholic Church on The Green. Deacon Colin Macken responded to a range of questions about the church. "The wealth of the church is its people" he said.

Fun Days in Lampton Park

Three events to promote community are taking place over the summer in Lampton Park in Hounslow.

ACAA Summer Festival 19th August

The Afghan and Central Asia Association are holding a summer festival which will include a wide range of performers, world foods, activities and exhibitions to cultivate a unique cultural experience. The event aims to celebrate the diversity and multiculturalism in British society, and promote community pride and cohesion as well as valuing and displaying the talent that refugees and asylum seekers bring to London.

Joint Services Fun Day 1st September

Following last year's fun day there is to be a repeat of the Joint Services event on Saturday 1st September. Organised to highlight the work of Police, the Fire Service, Ambulance and other public services, there will also be food and entertainment. Entrance is free.

Dance Against Hate 8th September #DAH8

The theme of this event is 'Building on common grounds to celebrate uniqueness'. with the aim of building resilience against all forms of hate and modelling communities working together.

Concorde Close Residents Association are working in collaboration with HOME Group Housing Association and the London Borough of Hounslow after two successful Street Parties on nearby Concorde Close titled 'Dance Against Hate'. The Close is being redeveloped and the residents are well aware of the importance of sustaining community and want to share this more widely.

Girls Allowed #Safe4Faith – Tackling Knife & Hate Crime in Partnership

Hounslow Friends of Faith was represented at Girls Allowed #Safe4Faith event at the Emmanuel Centre, Westminster on 28th June. Sgt Dave Turtle from Hounslow Police was on the event planning team, led by Detective Chief Inspector Shabnam Chaudhri. Rather than a keynote address the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, was interviewed by a female police cadet on the Mayor's strategy.

The event brought together multi-faith communities to highlight the importance of women and girls across all faiths and how they contribute towards tackling Knife and Hate Crime in partnership. This inspirational event focussed on building positive relationships and future engagement. It also provided an opportunity to meet people from across London engaged in this important area of community safety and cohesion.

Civic Service for Armed Forces Day

Members of all faiths serve or have served in the British armed forces. HFOF trustees participated at the London Borough of Hounslow's Armed Forces Day event on 29th June at the Holy Trinity Church. After the Procession of the Mayor's party, the Parade was led by Captain Jerram, 1st Battalion Irish Guards. The ceremony was conducted by Rev Stu Wright who gave the blessing. Captain Pickersgill offered a short reflection on the significance of the ceremony and the Mayor Cllr Samia Chaudhary praised the work of the armed forces. The Gurkhas, the Royal British Legion and the Army Cadets also participated.

Justice in Peace – Forgiveness

Chiswick Churches Justice and Peace will commemorate the ending of WW1 by focussing on forgiveness. Speakers are Father Laurence Freeman and Dr Harry Hagopian. The event is on Tuesday 16th October at Christ Church Turnham Green at 7.30pm. See <http://www.peaceinwar.org/>

This Evil Thing 9th November

Actor and playwright Michael Mears brings his one-man play, This Evil Thing, about conscientious objectors in the First World War to Brentford and Isleworth Quaker Meeting House TW7 5AZ on Friday 9th November at 7.30pm. The play tells the compelling, shocking and inspiring story of the men who said no to war and what they suffered for their principles, often inspired by their faith. For more details contact clerk@brentfordandisleworthquakers.org.uk

Change of personnel at HFOF

Having served for 12 years as Secretary and then Information Officer, Bessie White is retiring, stepping down from both that role and from the trustee board.

Barbara McIntivey, the current committee coordinator, will become Secretary and will replace Bessie as the point of contact. Barbara will circulate news from places or worship and events and issues of interest to faiths and the community. Keep those stories coming!

For further information on these stories ring **07928 345959** (note new number) info@hounslowfriendsoffaith.org
www.hounslowfriendsoffaith.org