

## Newsletter for June ~ July 2023

Keeping you up to date with Hounslow Friends of Faith

### Future Dates to note:

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July** HFOF Annual General Meeting 6 - 9pm

at Hounslow House, Bath Road. Guest speaker after the business:

Mr Jeremy Rodell who will speak about *Humanism and Interfaith*

Invitations with confirmed details will be sent nearer the time.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August** HFOF's Walk of Peace and Friendship from 11.15am

#### **Come and join us**

- Find out more about different faiths and customs
- Visit the places of worship of 4 different faiths
- Meet and discuss with friends and new people

**11.15 Shree Jalaram Seva Trust, Hindu Temple**  
497A Barack Rd, TW4 6AF

**12.30 Hounslow Jamia Masjid and Islamic Centre**  
367 Wellington Rd South, TW4 5HU

**2.15 Oshwal Shakti Jain Centre**  
Community Centre, Inwood Rd, TW3 1UX

**3.15 Holy Trinity Church**  
6 High St, Hounslow, TW3 1HG

Vegetarian lunch and refreshments provided.

Walk between venues or take the local bus.

Please dress modestly inside the venues.

Website [hounslowfriendsoffaith.org](https://hounslowfriendsoffaith.org) phone 07904 105422

## Interfaith Environmental Matters Update



The wild flower gardens at Osterley Library are doing well.  
The tree planted in memory of Pat Trollope is on the right.



Photograph taken 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 of HFOF's hawthorn tree which was planted in Lampton Park, Hounslow on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 during World Interfaith Harmony Week.

It appears to be growing well with evidence that there were some blossoms earlier in May.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 6 - 7.30pm** this exhibition at Hounslow House will be open for HFOF Hounslow members

The Jewish Living Experience is a mobile travelling exhibition. Aimed primarily at school groups, it enables visitors to gain an insight into Judaism as a living faith with a lifestyle that has been sustained for over 5,000 years. Designed by education experts, the Jewish Living Experience Exhibition supports the teaching of Judaism in line with all agreed Religious Education and Citizenship curriculums. The Jewish Living Experience Exhibition supports community cohesion, interfaith dialogue and Prevent agendas. The Board of Deputies of British Jews Education Department is sponsoring this Exhibition for Hounslow Primary School children from Monday November 20<sup>th</sup> until Friday November 30<sup>th</sup> at Hounslow House, Bath Road, Hounslow TW3 7EB

## **Past Events:**

*Hounslow Friends of Faith* members shared in a well-attended and generous Iftar meal on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April at Hounslow Jamia Masjid. After the meal several people were presented with a certificate acknowledging their work within the community including HFOF Trustee and Membership Secretary Satwinder Singh Ahdan.

Charanjit and Ajit Singh attended the World Zoroastrian Organisation Annual Seminar On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May. The speakers were:

Dr Yousef Moradi: *Beyond Discovery: New Archaeological Evidence from the Zoroastrian Sanctuary of Ādur Gušnasp*

Ms Shahin Bekhradnia: *Rediscovering Zoroastrianism*

Prof. Almut Hintze: *Zarathushtra's Gathas and Avestan Ritual in Performance*

Representatives of HFOF also attended a Coronation Celebration on 6<sup>th</sup> June at the Coptic Orthodox Church in Heston and the Mayor making ceremony at Hounslow House on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at the invitation of the new Mayor of Hounslow Cllr Afzaal Kiani.

**Animal Welfare in World Religion: Teaching and Practise** by Joyce D'Silva £114.99

This unique and readable book, published in May this year, examines the relationship between religion and animal welfare, taking a detailed dive into the teachings and practices of the major world religions.

The author contacted Charanjit AjitSingh during her research for this book.

## **HFOF annual membership subscriptions**

Becoming an HFOF member helps support and encourage interfaith activities in the Borough of Hounslow. The amount remains £10 for individual membership and £20 for an organisation or place of worship. Satwinder Singh Ahdan is the Membership and Gift Aid Secretary. Cheques or cash can be sent or delivered to Satwinder at 124 Catherine Gardens, Hounslow, TW3 2PW or paid directly into HFOF's Natwest Bank A/C 20072554 Sort Code: 60-11-18 please put your name as a reference so it can be recorded that you have paid.

If payment for 2023 is not made before 1<sup>st</sup> August then HFOF membership lapses.

## **Inter Faith Network UK - Bad News**

On Friday 31 March, IFN received a letter from an official at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities saying that further funding would not be given from April 2023 to the Inter Faith Network.

A message requesting support of IFN's work was promptly sent by email on behalf of HFOF to two local Hounslow MPs: Seema Malhotra and Ruth Cadbury who both agreed to use their influence in support of IFN. Emails were also sent to the Secretary of State and Minister for Faith and Communities.

Unfortunately at the time of writing this newsletter it seems unlikely that funding from the government will resume.

See on the next page an article from the Herald written by MP Seema Malhotra about funding for interfaith dialogue.



# Local MP fighting for interfaith dialogue funding

Hounslow

**Seema Malhotra, the Labour MP for Feltham and Heston, has written to Michael Gove, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Secretary, to ask why funding has been withdrawn from the UK's largest organisation supporting interfaith dialogue and action.**

**F**or almost four decades, Inter Faith Network UK (IFN) has been dedicated to increasing understanding and cooperation between people of different faiths and growing public awareness of the distinct religious traditions in the UK. IFN also supports hundreds of member bodies, including Hounslow Friends of Faith.

IFN has been supported by annual grants from the government of at least £220,000 for the past decade.

But this year, the government withdrew all funding from IFN, which the MP says was done 'with little notice, putting the future of the charity and its member bodies at risk'.

Seema Malhotra MP said: "Our experience in Hounslow has shown the vital contribution of interfaith dialogue and action in modern Britain, with Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and Buddhist places of worship, as well as many people of other faiths and no faith. It's important we build understanding and knowledge of one another – it's what lets us work together and celebrate each other's festivals and religious occasions.



"I've seen how Hounslow Friends of Faith brings our communities together in dialogue and action that wouldn't happen otherwise. Every year they organise an Interfaith Walk, so members of the public can visit different places of worship and experience some of the richness and variety of local faith communities.

"In a time when it's more vital than ever before to increase connection and understanding between our diverse communities, it's concerning that the government has made this funding cut without planning for the continued need to promote interfaith dialogue and action."

## **Spiritual Reflection** from Faith Initiative Magazine Issue 45

Rabia al-Basri was a poor Islamic slave girl in eighth century Arabia. One night as she was praying to the Almighty for greater freedom to serve him, her master noticed a divine light surrounding her and experienced a change of heart. He made up his mind to free her the very next morning. According to some historians, she lived as a Sufi ascetic in the desert and went on pilgrimages to holy places. She was known for her trust in divine providence. She shared her spiritual wisdom with both men and women and had many followers. Through her contemplative prayer life and mystic of love, she surrendered herself totally and reached union with God. Here is one of her prayers:

*“O my Lord!  
If I worship thee on account of the fear of hell  
Burn me in hell  
And if I worship thee with the hope of paradise  
Exclude me from it  
But if I worship thee for thine own sake  
Then withhold not from me thine eternal beauty.”*

### **Best wishes to all who will be observing days of special significance during June and July 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)

#### **JUNE**

- 4 June (Sunday) CHOKOR (also CHO KOR DU CHEN) Buddhist
- 4 June (Sunday) PENTECOST Christian (Orthodox)
- 16 June (Friday) MARTYRDOM OF GURU ARJAN DEV (1606) Sikh
- 19 / 20 June (Monday / Tuesday) RATHA YATRA Hindu
- 21 June (Wednesday) WORLD HUMANIST DAY National
- 27 June (Tuesday) to 1 July (Saturday) HAJJ [Pilgrimage to Makkah] Muslim
- 28 June (Wednesday) to 2 July (Sunday) EID-UL-ADHA [The Festival of Sacrifice] Muslim

#### **JULY**

- 1 July (Saturday) JASHN-E TIRGAN (TIR JASHAN) Zoroastrian (Iranian)
- 3 July (Monday) ASALHA PUJA or DHAMMA DAY Buddhist
- 7 (Friday) to 16 (Sunday) July FRAVARDIGAN Zoroastrian (Kadmi)
- 10 July (Monday) ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF THE BAB - 1850 - Baha'i
- 17 July (Monday) NAVROZE / NO RUZ Zoroastrian (Kadmi)
- 19 July (Wednesday) AL-HIJRA 1445AH / RA'S UL 'AM [Islamic New Year 622CE] Muslim
- 22 July (Saturday) KHORDAD SAL Zoroastrian (Kadmi)
- 27 July (Thursday) TISHA B'AV Jewish
- 28 July (Friday) ASHURA (10th Muharram) Muslim