



Newsletter 2 Feb 2011

Thank you to all of you that gave such positive feedback from the first Surrey Faith Links Project Newsletter! I hope you will find this one just as informative! It is great to see that you are also passing the newsletter on to those in your faith organisation and others of faith in Surrey County—please continue to do so - it is greatly appreciated.

Haallah Shams
(Surrey Faith Links Adviser)

Since the last newsletter, there seems to be quite a lot of interest in the 2012 Olympics. In this edition, further links are provided which may help you and your faith organisation become a part of the Olympics.

You will also find information about a number of faith events, which I hope you will be able to benefit from! There are also special reports on recent faith events that have taken place in Surrey County.

Thank you to all those that have contributed to this newsletter. It would be great to hear from more faith organisations (or individuals) to hear about the great work you are doing, which may act as an inspiration for others also {

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GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE OLYMPICS 2012

A free event is being organised in order to help organisations find out how they can create Games inspired volunteering opportunities on **19th March 2011, 9.30 am- 1.00 pm** in Guildford, Surrey. For more information about this, please visit: <http://www.windowonwoking.org.uk/sites/wavs/volunteering/2012workshop.pdf> - if you would like to book a place, please email: volunteermanager@wavs.org.uk

For more information on the Olympics and volunteering please go to: www.volunteering.org.uk/gamesinspired

MORE THAN GOLD

More than Gold has been set up in order to help churches engage with the Olympics. If your church is interested, please visit their website: www.morethangold.org.uk/



Bringing Together the Younger Generation

Woking People of Faith (WPOF) organised an exciting and rather unique get-together for the youth of Woking! A safe environment was created for youth to come together and learn about one another's faith and culture over a delicious meal!



The Woking Restaurant, Charlie Choys, played host to 23 students from 4 different faith groups. New friendships were made and many dialogues took place. It was much enjoyed by all that attended. One of the students present said "I had a great time and learned a huge amount about other religions. It has made me want to go away and read on other religions." Another student said "I felt very comfortable chatting to all at the table and did come to speak about our faiths. All commented on the need for such events to create cohesion and friendship and understanding between faiths. I'm sure sharing a meal produced a great atmosphere for conversation and friendship—there does always seem to be something sacred about sharing a meal."



WPOF looks forward to building on the friendships begun on this occasion. Following on from the event WPOF set up a facebook discussion forum in order to help the youth keep in touch: http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_174165212618926 {

Tandridge Faith Event

Tandridge District Council hosted an event at Centenary Hall, Smallfield, exclusively for the faith communities of Tandridge Borough in November 2010. The event was planned with the cooperation of: Revd Dr Barry Goodwin, Sue Cox, Vince Sharp and the Surrey Faith Links Project.

Invitations were extended to as many known faith groups as possible in and around Tandridge. On the day the attendance was superb, including representation from the following Christian denominations: Anglican, Methodist, Catholic, Baptist, Evangelical, Mormon, Christian Scientists and the Salvation Army. There was also representation from Crawley Inter-Faith Group, the South East England Faiths Forum and Islamic Centres in Redhill and Croydon.

A number of talks were held on the day, including an address by Councillor Alan Jones, Chairman of Tandridge District Council. He spoke about the importance of engaging with faith communities, and the hope for further partnership work taking place. He commented on the many examples of thriving community projects within the District that are operating thanks to faith communities.

During the workshop sessions, a number of key issues were raised, and opportunities for future partnership work between the Council and faith communities were brought to light, which will hopefully be acted upon in the near future. {



UPCOMING EVENTS

Epsom and Ewell's Faith in the Big Society Event – 17 February 2011, Ewell Court House, 1.30pm – 4.30pm. This workshop is for faith organisations within Epsom and Ewell. An introduction to the Big Society will be given, as well discussions about working together in order to create a 'big society'. To book a place, please email **Serena Powis**: SPowis@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Faiths in Action A chance for young people (aged 14+) and adults of all faiths, from across Surrey County, to come together for a day of fun activities and workshops to discuss their faith with others. Full lunch and refreshments provided. **Wednesday 23rd February 2011, 9.30am - 6.00pm** at **St. John's School, Leatherhead**. To register, please contact: **Sophie Webb** on: 01483 453 962 / sophie.webb@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk

Sheerwater Women's Event - An event for ladies on **Tuesday 8 March 2011, 10am – 12pm**, at the **Parkview Centre, Blackmore Crescent, Sheerwater, Woking**. A great opportunity for women to get together to socialise, seek health and beauty advise/treatments, enjoy authentic food and have a laugh (children also welcome!). If you would like a stand or would like to attend please contact **Mitel Patel** on: 10518@surrey.pnn.police.uk

The Surrey Assembly Faiths in Action The Surrey Assembly is holding an event to gather the views of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) **22 March 2011 9am - 2pm** (more info to come, or contact Hazel Robinson hazelr@surreyca.org.uk)

The Mental Health Forum hosts: "From Self Harm to Self Care" **Thursday 24th March 2011, 10.30am – 2.30pm**. **St Michaels Shared Church, Sheerwater GU21 5PJ**. This presentation will be by professionals working with adolescents. It will be of profound interest for anyone working with young people within the church and our communities. Lunch provided. Suggested £10 donation given on the day. If you would like to attend please email **Suzette Jones**: suzette.jones@cofeguildford.org.uk

Open Public Meeting Talks Sunday 27 March 2011 in Woking. Talks, discussions and refreshments (further details to be confirmed). This event is being organised by Woking People of Faith. If you would like more information, please contact: **Revd Pippa Ross-McCabe**: 07986 342 355 or by email: p.rossmccabe@btinternet.com

South East England Faiths Forum 2011 Conference: 'Faith & The Big Society' An opportunity for you to listen to leading policy influencers and take part in interactive workshops! **11 April 2011 10.30am - 3.30pm, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey. GU2 7XH**. To register, or for more information, please contact: **Ushna Mughal** on: 07854 373 965 / ushna.mughal@se-faithforum.net / contact@se-faithforum.net

*The following events are being organised by Elmbridge Multifatih Forum (EMF) - If you would like to attend, or require further details, please contact **Rushna** on: 01932 248751 or by email: rushna@master11.wanadoo.co.uk*

PASSOVER SUPPER A demonstration by Rabbi Alan Plancey, including Supper **Tuesday 5th April 2011, 7.00pm. EMF Centre, Mercer Close, Thames Ditton.**

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS (A talk and slide presentation by Robert Feather) **Tuesday 12th July 2011, 7.00pm. EMF Centre, Mercer Close, Thames Ditton.**

Removing Misconceptions about Islam in Woking

The Woking branch of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community held a 1 week display on Islam at the Woking library this month with the hope and aim of trying to remove some of the commonly misunderstood teachings of Islam.



The display, comprising of posters and pamphlets, covered a range of issues, from loyalty to the country one resides in, freedom of conscience, women's rights, tolerance and equality of mankind.

This display, covering the same range of issues, then moved to Knaphill Library for a 2 week exhibition.

For further information regarding future events please contact wokingama@hotmail.co.uk

A Brief Insight into....

Woking People of Faith

Woking People of Faith (WPOF) is a charitable organisation, overseen by a group of trustees and a management committee with representatives from different faiths. WPOF aims to promote religious and cultural harmony for the benefit of all the people residing in the Borough of Woking which they do so in various ways, such as: promoting mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different faiths, securing a more prominent role for faith organisations in regeneration of their communities by participating in the delivery of Woking's Neighbourhood initiatives, celebrating the important contribution that religious faith makes to the lives of the local community (amongst others).



Woking People of Faith

To achieve their aims WPOF:

- hold regular high profile public meetings
- develop local, regional and national interfaith links
- organise separate meetings and activities for women
- organise activities especially for youth
- organise interfaith trips/outings and social events
- serve the local community through practical initiatives like offering assemblies in schools and support for school governors re community cohesion

For further information please contact:

Pippa Ross-McCabe (Woking People of Faith Coordinator)

p.rossmccabe@btinternet.com / 07986 342355

or

Dr. Zafar Iqbal, (Secretary)

Zafar.Iqbal@woking.gov.uk / 01483 743 774 or 07882 131 215

If you would like anything featured in this newsletter, please contact:

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