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REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM LOOKING FORWARD

Wednesday, 24th April 1.15-3.15 pm – Women's Interfaith Workshop
St Andrews Church, The Drive, Ilford IG1 3PE

All women are warmly invited to attend this workshop which will be on the topic of “Births:- Ceremony, Custom & Tradition”. This is our third workshop in the series and this time we will be hearing from Christian and Sikh speakers. To reserve your place please email faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk or ring 0208 708 2478 to leave a message. There is no charge for attendance but a voluntary donation around £3 would be appreciated towards costs.

Tuesday, 30th April 11.45 am – 1.30 pm – RFF Network Meeting- Community Hubs
Ilford Islamic Centre, Albert Rd, IG1 1HW

The Council is embarking on ambitious programme to establish six community hubs across the borough as a means of bringing together health, social, cultural and other local resources residents need in an integrated manner and in one convenient location. In particular, we are looking to establish purpose-built facilities in strategic locations at Seven Kings, Gants Hill, Wanstead, Ashton's Playing Field, Hainault and Ilford Town Centre.

This network meeting is your opportunity to hear more about the project and give your views on what you would like your local hub to offer. The first two hubs are planned for Seven Kings and Gants Hill. More information about the project is available at www.redbridge.gov.uk/hubs

To reserve your place please email faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk or ring 0208 708 2478 to leave a message

ADVANCE NOTICE – PLEASE SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES:-

Tuesday, 2nd July 5.45 pm RFF Annual General Meeting
at Gardens of Peace, Hainault, IG6 3SW

There will be the opportunity to enjoy a guided tour of the Gardens after the formal Annual General Meeting has concluded.

Tuesday, 16th July RFF Quiz Evening 7pm
at The Drive Methodist Church Hall, IG1 3PP

Get together with friends and family to form teams of 8 to join us for an enjoyable and fun social evening whilst also raising funds for Redbridge Faith Forum. Tickets to be priced £6 inclusive of tea/coffee and cake. We can match people up to teams if you are in a smaller group or wish to come on our own so please don't hesitate to join us – you will receive a very warm welcome.

REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM LOOKING BACK

Tuesday 5th March – Women's Interfaith Coffee Morning

Redbridge Faith Forum was delighted when a member offered to host a coffee morning in her home to celebrate the 2019 International Women's Day.

About 35 women came together to enjoy conversation, wonderful refreshments and a discussion about some of the women who have been inspirational to us.

These included Barbara Castle who as Transport Minister in the years 1965-1968 introduced road safety measures that have saved many thousands of lives – these included introduction of permanent speed limits, breathalysers and seat belts. Later as Secretary of State for Employment in 1968 she intervened in the Ford Strike at Dagenham supporting a pay-rise for the women workers. IN 1970 she oversaw the introduction of the Equal Pay Act. Later in her career as Secretary of State for Health & Social Services she introduced many welfare reforms including the Child Benefit Act of 1975 which ensured mothers could receive the benefit instead of the former Family allowance which was paid to fathers.



Other inspirational women nominated by the ladies present included Her Majesty the Queen who did not choose her role in life but was thrust into it quite unexpectedly due to the abdication of her uncle and the subsequent death of her father. Malala Yousafzai the young woman who was shot by a Taliban gunman on a school bus and is now studying at Oxford University and speaking out for women's rights to education. Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale, Mother Teresa and Mary mother of Jesus.

An interesting discussion ensued about the role of women in society and new contacts were made between women of different backgrounds and faiths.



Comments fed back included:

- ✓ Lovely informal atmosphere, chatting with different people. Great food, very interesting and informative talks and discussions
- ✓ Brilliant environment, it was conducive to open discussion
- ✓ Interesting discussion. Lovely venue. Nice to see so many attendees. Thanks to our hostess.
- ✓ Very informative, meeting some points were thought, provoking. Food was wonderful, as was hospitality.

APRIL FAITH FESTIVALS

A full list of all the festivals can be found on our website under resources just follow this link [here](#) but we thought it might be more personal to feature some contributions from our trustees and supporters about how what these festivals mean to them. April is a busy month including along other festivals : Passover for our Jewish community, Vaisakhi – Sikh New Year, Tamil New Year and Easter for our Christian community.

Our trustee Appathurai Ramkumar has sent us the following information about the Tamil New Year which will fall on 14th April 2019 and is celebrated in many countries following the Gregorian calendar.



The day celebrates the first day of the traditional Tamil calendar and is a public holiday in both Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. The same date is observed as the traditional new year in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Manipur, Tripura, Bihar, Odisha, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan as well as in Nepal and Bangladesh. Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Sinhalese in Sri Lanka also celebrate the same day as their new year,[8] likely an influence of the shared culture between South and Southeast Asia in the 1st millennium CE.[9]

There are several references in early Tamil literature to the April new year. Nakkirar, Sangam period author of the Neṭunalvāṭai, wrote in the third century CE that the sun travels each year from Mesha/Chitterai in mid-April through 11 successive signs of the zodiac.[10] Kūdalūr Kizhaar in the third century CE refers to Mesha Raasi/Chitterai i.e. mid-April as the commencement of the year in the Puṛaṇāṇūru.[11][12] The Tolkaapiyam is the oldest surviving Tamil grammar that divides the year into six seasons where Chitterai i.e. mid-April marks the start of the Ilavenil season or summer.[13] The 8th century Silappadikaaram mentions the 12 Raasis or zodiac signs that correspond to the Tamil months starting with Mesha/Chitterai in mid-April.[14] The Manimekalai alludes to this very same Hindu solar calendar as we know it today[15] Adiyarkunalaar, an early medieval commentator or Uraiasiriyar mentions the twelve months of the Tamil calendar with particular reference to Chitterai i.e. mid-April. There were subsequent inscriptional references in Pagan, Burma dated to the 11th century CE and in Sukhothai, Thailand dated to the 14th century CE to South Indian, often Vaishnavite, courtiers who were tasked with defining the traditional calendar that began in mid-April.[16]

For Christians April sees the celebration of the most important event in the Christian faith the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our co-Chair Phil Butcher follows the Roman Catholic Christian Tradition and has sent us the following information:.



What Easter means to me.

As a Christian, Easter is the most important Feast in our calendar. Within Roman Catholicism, in common with many other Christian traditions, the Easter season starts with Lent, forty day period of prayer, almsgiving and abstinence. At the start we receive 'ashes' on our heads which are a sign for us to repent and turn to the Gospel. The culmination of Lent begins with Palm Sunday which is the start of Holy Week. On this day, the last Sunday before Easter, we recall Jesus' entrance to Jerusalem and many Christians will carry branches from Palm trees, sometimes fashioned into a cross.

Holy week consist of several special celebrations in each church. Tuesday is a Day of Reconciliation where we seek God's forgiveness for our sins. Wednesday usually sees a special Mass of Chrism in the Cathedral, where each priest reaffirms their priesthood and special oils are blessed to be taken to every parish in the Diocese. Maundy Thursday is the start of what is really one continuous service, the Triduum which spreads over three days. We celebrate the Mass of the Last Supper, remembering how Jesus gathered His friends to celebrate Passover, Good Friday, where recall the Passion and death of Jesus and then Easter where, as Christians, we believe He conquered death and rose again. On Easter Saturday after sunset, at the Vigil Mass, a fire is usually lit outside each church which is blessed and then used to light the Paschal Candle from which everyone lights their own candle so spreading the 'Light of Christ'.

Another of our supporters follows the Orthodox Christian Tradition and has kindly given us information about how she is marking Lent leading to Easter which you will note is celebrated at a slightly different time from other traditions as the Orthodox tradition follows the Julian calendar.

Orthodox Great Lent 4 March-28 April 2019

Great Lent officially begins on Clean Monday, seven weeks before Pascha (Ash Wednesday is not observed in Eastern Christianity) and runs for 40 continuous days, concluding with the Presanctified Liturgy on Friday of the Sixth Week.

For Orthodox Christians, who follow the Julian calendar, the Great Lent is stricter, as the faithful are expected to abstain from meat, meat by-products, poultry, eggs and dairy products for the entire Lenten period.

Orthodox Lent is a time of fasting, which means abstaining from foods that contain animals with red blood (meats, poultry, game) and products from animals with red blood (milk, cheese, eggs, etc.), and fish and seafood with backbones. Olive oil and wine are also restricted. The number of meals on each day is also limited. 4-10 March- cheese is allowed & 11-15 March-Olive restriction

First week of lent: While the use of olive oil is restricted, many do use it during Lent, abstaining only on Clean Monday (the first day of Lent) and Holy Friday, which is a day of mourning. Two dates on which dietary restrictions are lifted are March 25th and Palm Sunday. On these two days, fried salt cod with garlic puree has become traditional fare.

From the first week of the Great Lent on Monday to Thursday, in the churches, St. Andrew Christley's law of regret is read and usually believers attend this service.

Every Wednesday and Friday of the great fast will be a special liturgy, called the first liturgical liturgy. Great Lenten II, III and IV Saturday are the days of the deceased. Blessing is a broom. It is desirable to make a coal (wheat honey), bread, red wine and oil (maybe even fast food).

Easter is the most important and central feast for Christians all over the world and whichever tradition you follow, we wish you a very Happy and Peace filled Easter

REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM

What is it and what does it do?

RFF hold regular public meetings to discuss social issues affecting faith communities such as education, health, and give people the opportunity to meet and share with other faiths.

RFF was set up in 2003 following a faith conference set up by Redbridge Council, which brought faith leaders together to talk about their communities' needs.

- RFF bring together local members of different faith communities.
- RFF promote social harmony.
- RFF foster a community spirit within Redbridge and the local area.
- RFF recognise the important contribution that religion and spirituality makes to the lives of Redbridge residents.
- RFF lobby relevant organisations that affect faith communities.

Current Trustees

RFF is an independent organisation with a charitable status (1118675). RFF has a board of trustees composed of representatives of different faiths :

Christian: ☩ Phil Butcher (Co Chair), Rev Bernardino Mandlate

Hindu: ॐ Vinaya Sharma, Appathurai Ramkumar

Jewish: ☆ Rabbi Larry Becker, Angela Banner

Muslim: ☪ Mo Dedat (Treasurer), Mohamed Omer (Co-Chair), Imam Khurram Rafiq

Sikh: ੴ Harbans Singh Seehra, Harmander Singh

Buddhist: ☸ Rev P Hemaratana, Dr Suhasini

Bahai Carol Khorsandyon

We hope that you will understand that in order to continue our work to the benefit of all living in Redbridge, the Faith Forum needs to raise funds to cover the various activities we organise. Membership is open to all and there are a range of options available.

Associate member: (open to everyone) receives all e-mail updates, a membership certificate, invitations to all events, able to vote at AGM – suggested donation £10 per year.

Voluntary organisations - £20 per annum.

We are proposing two other membership scales for large groups and businesses as follows:

Place of Worship: full membership (open to recognised faith groups and their designated representative) all rights as above; additionally such representative may be nominated for election to the Management Committee and - £30 per year.

If you would like to become a RFF member please email faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

Help Available to clean-up your neighbourhood

CleanupUP (registered charity 1120115) can help you run your own clean-up and put you in touch with others who also care and want to take action. You can improve your neighbourhood and make a difference to your local community.

For more information please get in touch with Neeta telephone 07463660843 – email Neeta.Kanagaratnam@cleanupuk.org.uk

Free Counter Terrorism Awareness Briefing for Faith Communities

As the current threat level from terrorism is at SEVERE which means an attack is highly likely, the Counter Terrorism team at Ilford police station are happy to come and deliver a briefing to your community members at your chosen date/time. The ACT project is a Home office led initiative to promote and encourage members of the community to work in partnership with the police to report, deter and detect terrorist activity and crime.

The briefing session provides essential knowledge in counter terrorism awareness to both help prevent an attack and to know what to do if caught up in one and usually takes two hours to deliver. For further queries and to book a session please PC TICKNER or PC HUSSAIN on 0208 345 2601 or e-mail EastAreaEABCUMailbox-.CTPBST@met.pnn.police.uk

Help & Support for Victims of Hate Crime

Redbridge Equalities & Community Council along with sister organisations run a project – Community Against Hate Crime. A hate crime is a crime motivated or aggravated by prejudice against a particular group in society – for reasons of race, religion, disability, gender, gender reassignment, sexuality, migrant or refugee...If you are the victim of hate crime please get in touch to make an appointment to see RECC advice worker on 020-8551 8178 for advice and advocacy services.

The organisation will also come along to speak at events to inform how to report hate crime and what can be done to support those being targeted and can establish mutual support groups of victims. You can also volunteer to become involved in the Community Witness & Support Team.

Email - Office1@redbridgetequalities.org.uk - 020-8551 8178
RECC, Room 203, 2nd Floor, Heraldic House, 160-162 Cranbrook Road IG1 4PE.

EVENTS TO COME IN REDBRIDGE

Community Activity Day

Saturday 6th April 11am to 3 pm at Forest Farm Peace Garden, at the end of Hazelbrouck Gardens Hainault IG6 2XL

Take part in our first Community Activity Day on 6 April to plant a hedge with saplings donated from the Woodland Trust. Foraging hedgerow trees including hazel, dog rose, blackthorn, crab apple and elder will create a rich habitat for wildlife and birds and become an attractive border for our site. This day is open to everyone who'd like to get involved. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please register your interest in attending, so we know numbers, by emailing: info@forestfarmpeacegarden.org (Please bring a packed lunch and refreshments will be provided.)

Teens want a say on knife crime too

Saturday 6 April 2019 7-9pm at Ilford High Road Baptist Church, 322 High Road, Ilford IG1 1QP

The meeting will be chaired by Hannah Chowdhry, Essex Youth Councillor and Member of UK Youth Parliament. Mother of slain teenager Kashif Mahmood, Parvin Mahmood will be the chief guest. Also in attendance will be a senior officer from the Met Police East Area Command, and voluntary groups including E-gangs and Antiknife UK.

Hannah Chowdhry is fifteen years old and is pleading for the authorities to take swift and bold action against knife crime.

Ilford Historical Society AGM & Talk on the development of Seven Kings

Monday 8th April 7.30 – 9pm in Gloucester Room, Central Library IG1 1EA

All welcome. Visitors £3.

Redbridge Music Lounge at The Cranbrook Centre, Valentines Park

Wednesdays 10th & 24th April & Thursdays 4th & 18th April - 12.30-4.30 pm at Melbourne Gate, Melbourne Road IG1 4SB (for directions see www.cranbrookcentre.london)

The venue is for musicians and anyone interested in playing music, who are retired, in part-time work, unemployed or semi-professional, even if committed to bands/group already but have time and expertise to offer and share mainly, for daytime projects, events and local festivals. Feel free to bring along your instruments and perform – rehearsal equipment and performing facilities are also available. For further information contact Chris Wyatt mob 07929 071155 email criswyatt@aol.com www.rmluk.org. Registered Charity 1151132

Mayor's Appeal Gala Dinner

Saturday 27th April 6.30pm at the Town Hall, 128-142 High Road, Ilford IG1 1DD

Mayor of Redbridge Appeal Committee is inviting you to join the Mayor of Redbridge, Debbie Kaur Thiara for her end of year Gala Dinner. The charity event hosted by The Mayor of Redbridge is perfect for all those who enjoy delicious food, whilst supporting a worthwhile charitable cause. Tickets £60.

CONTACT: redbridgemayorsappeal@hotmail.com / 020 8708 2297 / 07985 161112

ADVANCE NOTICE

Meditation & Hope Amidst Climate Chaos

Saturday 11th May , 10.30am – 4 pm at St Mark's Myddelton Square, The Meditatio Centre London , EC1R 1XX

What does hope look like in the uncertainty and despair of climate breakdown?

In this workshop we will use participatory methods to explore the contribution of prayer and meditation to climate change activism and the contribution of climate change awareness to our prayers for the world. Together we will learn more about climate breakdown. We will share ways in which our prayer, meditation can give us a grounding in our lives so we can make a contribution to the healing of the earth.

Cost £30 Concessions £20

Please bring a packed lunch. Coffee and tea provided

Peter Musgrave has worked for over 35 years in the field of community development . He has a special interest in Bangladesh where he has lived and worked for many years, a country on the frontier of climate change. Peter is a meditator with WCCM and has enjoyed coming to many talks at The Meditatio Centre since its inception. He with some other colleagues, will facilitate the workshop and provide input into our reflections.

To receive regular updates about events at The Meditation Centre, please subscribe here

<http://cepurl.com/8jSwj>

Disclaimer:

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