



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Redbridge Faith Forum Charity 1118675



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The London  
Community  
Foundation

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# 2018-19

Trustees and Staff have pleasure in reporting that the charity has had a successful year with much good work being undertaken “behind the scenes” as well as “front of house” organising well attended, informative and interesting events bringing people together from all faiths, cultures and backgrounds. Full details are on our website [www.redbridgefaithforum.org](http://www.redbridgefaithforum.org) but a snapshot of our year follows.

## Network Meetings

Our quarterly network meetings have continued to be very popular with topical issues being on the agenda - in 2018-19 we focused on “Routes out of Poverty”; “Health & Wellbeing”, “The Spark Project” and revisited the issue of “Rough Sleeping and Homelessness in Redbridge”. We are grateful to all those who came along to speak and answer questions from the audience and to our supporters who attended in force. We have been holding network meetings in the Central Library but are experimenting with hosting them in faith venues during the coming year.

## Women’s Interfaith Group

This group is thriving with many new faces joining us this year. We have just concluded an interesting series of workshops focusing on “Births - Ceremony, Custom and Tradition” from different faith and cultural perspectives. To celebrate 2019 International Women’s Day one of our group kindly opened up her home for a coffee morning. This proved very popular and lively discussion took place about “Inspirational Women”. The warm welcome and wonderful refreshments were very much appreciated by all.

***Did you know ? - RFF won an award for Interfaith Work from The Faith & Belief Forum in November 2018- see cover photo of our staff with The Lord Lieutenant of Greater London and Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor of London***

## Social Fundraising Events

Our social fundraisers are a wonderful opportunity for our supporters to come together to enjoy each other's company in a social setting. July 2018 saw our first fundraiser Quiz - this proved to be great fun and so is being repeated on 16th July 2019 at 7pm at The Drive Methodist Church - all are welcome. Interfaith Week falls in November each year and RFF marks this by holding an interfaith meal. In 2018 this was an evening dinner at the Ilford Islamic Centre but for 2019 we will be holding a lunch instead 13th November 2019 12.30-2.30 pm at The Old Courthouse in Ilford.

## Annual Walk of Peace

Our 2018 Walk started in challenging weather conditions but we were so pleased to see a big crowd of walkers (plus umbrellas!) assembled in Valentines Park at the start of the walk. A commemorative tree was planted by the Mayor of Redbridge and the group then moved to the nearby Holocaust Memorial Garden to hear a short talk given by Rabbi Becker. Walkers then continued visiting in turn the Buddhist Vihara, Vishwa Hindu Parishad Temple, Ilford Islamic Centre (who were celebrating their Ruby Anniversary), and Vine Church culminating at the Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha Gurdwara. Two extra features this year were the participation of Redbridge Music Lounge who performed some peace songs outside Wilko and a pause for a reflection at the Peace Pole opposite Vine Church to remember the victims of violence in our community. RFF is grateful to our supporter Isaac Harvey who filmed the walk which can be viewed on YouTube <https://youtu.be/x6O1IYUIZo0>. Highlights were incorporated into a short film which also featured two of our trustees speaking about the role of RFF in the borough. Please do join us at our 2019 event on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September**.

## Website

Core funding from Comic Relief, awarded by the London Community Foundation, has enabled us to continue to focus on improving the RFF website. The website was in need of a redesign with a fresher more appealing look and easier navigation. It can now be accessed on cell phones and is receiving many more "hits" each week. Work is "still in progress" and we wish to enhance our signposting facility further.

## Our Volunteers

It would be impossible for our charity to survive without the incredible support of volunteers - from our volunteer trustees, office volunteers, events volunteers and our members whose membership fees contribute to our core costs. During 2018-19 two of our long standing volunteers left us to take up paid employment - Temi (after 4 year's service) and Meenakshi (after 8 year's service). We were delighted to welcome two new volunteers - Natia in early 2018 and Sania in March 2019.

## RFF Trustees

- Phillip Butcher - Co-Chair
- Mohamed Omer - Co-Chair - co-opted September 2018
- Mohammed Dedat - Treasurer
- Appathurai Ramkumar (Secretary)
- Angela Banner
- Carol Khorsandyon
- Dr Suhasini
- Imam Khurram Rafiq
- Harbans Singh Seehra
- Harmander Singh
- Rabbi Laurence Becker
- Reverend Bernardino Mandlate
- Reverend Pethigamuwe Hemaratana
- Vinaya Sharma

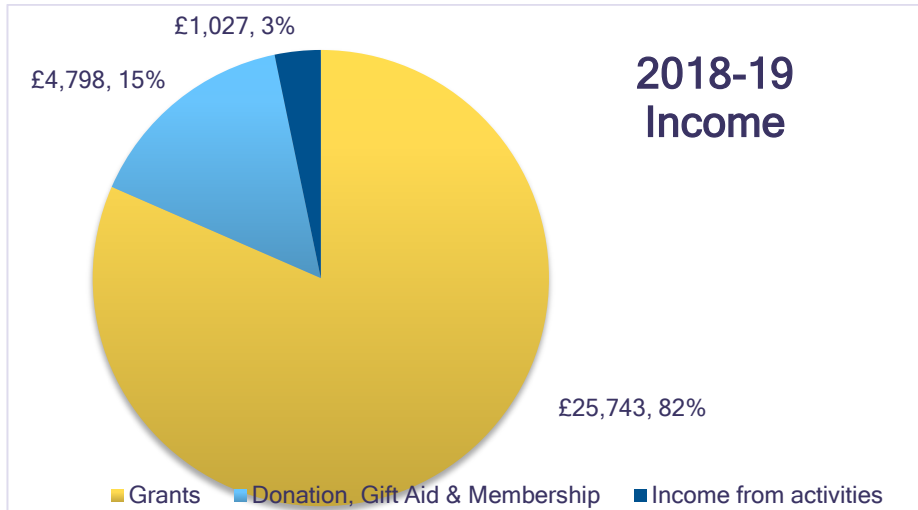
## RFF Staff & Office Volunteers

Saira Yakub & Karen Kent / Natia & Sania

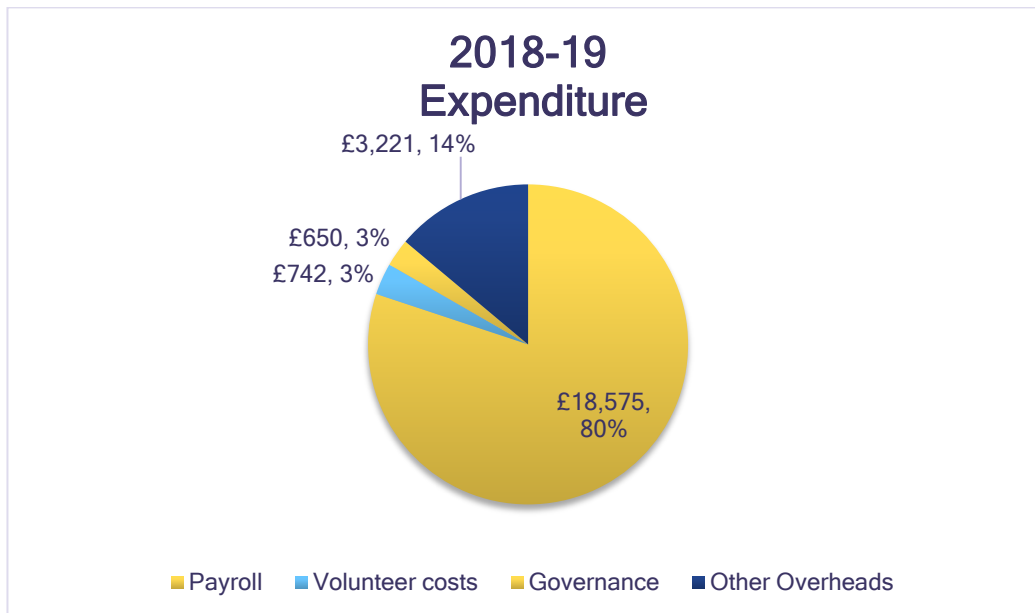
## Funding

Redbridge Faith Forum is grateful to funders the London Borough of Redbridge, Comic Relief (administered by the London Community Foundation) & the Faith & Beliefs Forum & to many faith communities for "in-kind" support. See annual accounts for full details on RFF website.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



- £25,743 (82%) – Grants (previous year £18,315 - 81%)
- £4,798 (15%) - Donation, Gift Aid & Membership (previous year £3066 - 14%)
- £1,027 (3%) - Income from activities (previous year £1,211 - 5%)



- £18,575 (80%) – Payroll (previous year £22,769 – 86%)
- £742 (3%) - Volunteer costs (previous year £343 – 1%)
- £650 (3%) – Governance (previous year £650 – 2%)
- £3,221 (14%) -Other Overheads (previous year £2,803 – 11%)

## VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

*“When it was suggested that I join RFF as a Trustee, I felt quite honoured and after discussion with my husband Alan decided that I should take on this role as we had previously been involved with RFF in a voluntary capacity and wanted to help and support even more. The Trustee Board of RFF is the most pleasant committee I attend. My fellow trustees are helpful and committed to the welfare and future of RFF which in turn is for the good of our borough and its residents.”*  
*Angela Banner, Trustee*

*“I have found the work of Redbridge Faith Forum truly inspiring in the manner that they try to bring all the faiths together and create unity and cohesion. It is the only organisation in Redbridge that represents all faith groups and focuses on commonalities rather than differences and deals with the wider issues affecting the community as a whole. Being too passionate about an organisation does have its consequences and one of them is that I have ended up as a Co-Chair.”*  
*Mohamed Omer, Trustee*

*“RFF is involved and has been successful in bringing harmony and understanding about different religions. By attending places of worship and RFF workshops I have learnt about the history, customs, beliefs and the similarities between different religions.”*  
*Neela, RFF Member*

*“RFF brings many people together, integration enriches society. Through my long association with RFF I have come to know many individuals from different faiths – RFF has been the anchor to achieve this.”*  
*A Ramkumar, RFF Trustee*

*“RFF does a great job delivering a high quality service on a shoe string. I would like to thank Redbridge Faith Forum for the great work it does to bring people together especially now with the rise in hate crime. Keep up the inspirational work which deepens the understanding and bonds between people of all faiths and no faith in Redbridge.*

*Councillor Shamshia Ali*

*“I first met RFF staff in January 2018 when I applied to become a volunteer for the charity. I was very impressed with the description of the role which sounded very interesting and would give me valuable experience. I soon felt part of the team and have enjoyed meeting people with a different culture and faith. It has opened up a world of exciting new possibilities and experiences, values and cultural diversity. I am always mesmerized by RFF workshops and meetings which give me a much clearer understanding of other cultures and beliefs. I immensely enjoy my time volunteering for RFF.”*

*Natia, Volunteer*

*“RFF is an interfaith forum in the true sense. It is all inclusive. Members from different faiths learn from each other & from the speakers. This promotes harmony, understanding & respect. I think it is a very well run organisation. I look forward to the RFF meetings.”*

*Veena, RFF Member*

*“I have found the RFF network meetings very informative and helpful; the speakers are knowledgeable and the chosen topics affect all faith groups. RFF do a great work bringing faith community groups together enabling them to become more informed and understanding of each other.*

*Catherine, RFF Member”*