

Redbridge Faith Forum E-News Bulletin - December 2020

We do hope that this bulletin finds you safe and well. Although our office is closed we are continuing to work remotely to update you with helpful information both via e-news bulletins and website posts so please do keep in touch and send us any details of any information or events you would like us to promote.

This is the link to the current advice regarding social distancing to stay safe [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Meeting with others safely \(social distancing\)](#) In view of the current ongoing risk of covid19 transmission our events will continue to be held virtually for the time being.

LOOKING FORWARD

NEW RFF EVENT – Wednesday 2nd December 2- 3 pm via Zoom

Suicide Awareness Resource

Our planned suicide prevention awareness and training workshops had to be cancelled in the summer due to the pandemic – whilst it is not yet possible for us to deliver these workshops we are delighted that Papyrus have offered us an online awareness session

SP-ARK'ed Suicide Prevention – Awareness, Resource, Knowledge **e-delivery**. An introduction to POPYRUS and Suicide Prevention

The key objectives are:

- To raise awareness of Suicide and Suicide Prevention
- To provide information about POPYRUS – Prevention of Young Suicide
- To develop Hope and encourage action for a suicide safer community
- To understand the importance of self-care.

Places are limited so please email us at faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk to reserve your place and the zoom link will be sent to registered participants nearer the time.

2021 INTERFAITH EDUCATION SERIES: "MARRIAGE"

Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue is delighted to host a Redbridge Faith Forum interfaith education series with faith and community leaders on the theme of "Marriage"

7th Jan (Thursday): Mr Phil Butcher (Christianity)

14th Jan (Thursday): Dr Pratibha Datta and Mrs Vinaya Sharma (Hinduism)

21st Jan (Thursday): Mrs Carol Khorsandyon (Baha'i)

28th Jan (Thursday): Rabbi Larry Becker (Judaism)

3rd Feb (Wednesday): Imam Khurram Rafiq (Islam)

All sessions on Zoom start at 7.30pm

For more information about the leaders, please see: <https://redbridgefaithforum.org/about/>

Advance registration is not essential but it is very helpful for planning, so if you could please register [here](#) – it would be greatly appreciated! **You can email us at faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk to reserve your place and a zoom link will be sent to you.**

LOOKING BACK

INTERFAITH WEEK 8-14 NOVEMBER

We had a very busy week starting with our “Love and Remembrance Event” on 8th November

As this fell on Remembrance Sunday, we took the opportunity to hold a minute’s silence to remember those who are no longer with us, and in particular our co-founder and ex-Chair of Trustees Jacquie Grieve who has left us a wonderful legacy of service to others. We were glad to have family and friends of Jacquie join us and that we were able to dedicate the event to her memory.

The event was very well attended and gave the opportunity to enjoy virtual tours of local places of worship from the comfort of attendees’ own homes. Places visited included St Cedd’s Church, Seven Kings; Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue, Wanstead; Buddhist Vihara, Ilford; VHP Hindu Temple, Ilford; Ilford Islamic Centre Mosque; the Drive Methodist Church; Singh Sabha London East Gurdwara and learn about and see photographs of many Bahai Houses of Worship. We were delighted that The Worshipful, The Mayor of Redbridge, Councillor Zulfiqar Hussain, joined us for the event as well as recording a message of welcome introducing the minute’s silence.

If you were not able to join us on the day please do take the opportunity to view it now on youtube – just click this link:- <https://redbridgefaithforum.org/virtual-walk-of-peace-love-remembrance-sunday-afternoon-8th-november-at-3pm-via-zoom/>

Another resource we arranged for Interfaith Week was a daily “Thought for the Day” – these are now all available on our website so please do enjoy them. You will find an inspiring talk on the theme of “Love Thy Neighbour” from different faith perspectives. Sunday – Christian; Monday – Hindu; Thursday – Bahai; Wednesday – Sikh; Thursday – Muslim; Friday -Jewish; Saturday – Buddhist here is the link <https://redbridgefaithforum.org/category/events-2020-21/inter-faith/>

A further Interfaith Event, was held on 11th November when our women’s group enjoyed meeting together via Zoom to learn more about the topic “Repairing Our World”..

Three speakers from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities shared the practical steps their faith communities are taking to care for our living world. In future workshops we will hear from women of other faiths.

It was inspiring to hear how the concept of eco-Church and eco-Synagogue is being implemented and the eco-friendly Muslim Gardens of Peace Cemetery. It was encouraging to hear how faith venues are promoting recycling, being conscious of plastic waste and encouraging people to bring their own reusable bottles, changing heating and lighting, planting bulbs and trees.

The Jewish Joint Burial Society is developing a Woodland cemetery and have built a gathering hall that is virtually carbon neutral with a borehole for heating and air-con and solar panels.

Breakout rooms were used to facilitate small group discussion before everyone came back together to share what had inspired them.

Ruth Musgrave is happy to support faith groups (not just Christian) in how they can be greener, you can email her on: ruth.musgrave52@gmail.com and there are more resources listed on our website <https://redbridgefaithforum.org/category/events-2020-21/womens-interfaith/>

FAITH ENGAGEMENT REVIEW – CALL FOR EVIDENCE

We wanted to draw your attention to the **Government’s Faith Engagement Review** and subsequent **call for evidence on the contribution of faith groups to our country and communities**.

On 10 October 2019, the Government announced that Colin Bloom had been appointed as the Faith Engagement Adviser at the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). As Faith Engagement Adviser, Colin is leading a review into how best the Government should engage with faith groups in England. He will make recommendations to the Communities Secretary about how the government can best celebrate and support the contribution of faith groups, break down barriers and promote acceptance between faiths, and promote shared values while tackling cultures and practices that are harmful.

This Call for Evidence aims to collect views from the public and from experts in the subject; these views will help underpin this review’s recommendations.

[Click here to participate in the review](#)

LOOKING FORWARD TO OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

Free Fostering Information Event – 1st December 2020

Would you like to change a child’s life?

Over 200 children in Redbridge are unable to stay with their families and need fostering, for either the short or long term. Would you like to know more about fostering for Redbridge and start your journey in changing a child’s future?

Join our next Virtual Information Evening to find out more:

1 December 2020 6pm to 7pm

Please click on the link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/foster-for-redbridge-information-session-011220-6-7pm-tickets-122043193477> or call us on 020 8708 6068 or email fostering@redbridge.gov.uk to book a place.

Are you caring for a child who is not yours?

Private fostering is when someone who is not a close relative cares for another person’s child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) for 28 days or more.

A close relative is considered to be an aunt, uncle, grandparent, step parent or siblings.

Friends of the family and other family members such as cousins or great aunts are not classed

as close relatives for the purposes of Private Fostering, neither are families hosting overseas students who are being educated in the UK.

You need to legally notify us of any private fostering arrangements in Redbridge to ensure the child is safe.

Please contact the Child Protection and Assessment Team (CPAT) on 020 8708 3885 or by email CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk

For more information please visit our website: <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering>

Council/Police Residents' Webinar – 1st December 6-7 pm

The Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Jas Athwal, and Borough Commander Stephen Clayman will be hosting their second live webinar to discuss their joint approach to tackling crime. This time they will also be joined by Stephen Addison founder of the social enterprise BoxUp Crime and the police burglary prevention team.

Residents can tune in and [watch the webinar](#) on Tuesday 1st December, from 6 pm – 7 pm.

Cllr Athwal and Mr Clayman will highlight the initiatives the police and the council have rolled out to tackle local crime hotspots and update residents on how they have been dealing with domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour in the borough.

Parents can hear from Stephen Addison, on how to support young people to be happy, healthy and focussed on their future, plus advice on how to manage unruly teenagers.

The burglary prevention team will be sharing their top tips on protecting your home this winter.

Community Crowd Funding Opportunities – free workshop 2nd December 4-5 pm

Local community groups and organisations in Redbridge can create and fund projects which celebrate and improve their local areas.

The council will have some match-funding available to pledge towards local crowdfunding projects through the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), as long as projects meet the selection criteria and there are sufficient available funds.

Local community groups can bid for projects that vary in pledge scale from under £1,000 for smaller projects, up to £20,000 for larger projects.

Members of the public can show their support for projects by “liking” them, and by pledging financial donations and/or volunteer time in project wishlists.

Join the free online workshops with Spacehive on **2 December 2020 at 16:00- 17:00** and **14 January 2021 at 12:00 to 13:00** to find out more and discuss your project ideas.

Secure your free place at the workshop now! [Register here](#)

Can't attend the online workshops? Email support@spacehive.com and we can then provide you with more information and support.

For further information, please see here:

<https://www.spacehive.com/movement/redbridge>

<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/community-infrastructure-levy/community-crowdfunding-with-spacehive/>

Vaccines for All – an Online Community Conversation Monday 7th December 6.30-7.30 pm

To register, go to Webex: bit.ly/37bjHgU

No software download required. Please use Firefox or Chrome to join via a browser. Attendees are asked to join from 6.15pm ready for a prompt 6.30pm start

Chaired by – Abbas Mirza and Yunus Dudhwala

Speakers and panellists include:

- Rev. Alan Green, Chair, Tower Hamlets Inter-faith Forum
- Prof Patrick Kennedy, Principal Investigator, ENSEMBLE-2 vaccine trial, Barts Health
- Dr Vanessa Apea, Sexual Health consultant, Barts Health and Black, Asian and ethnic minority engagement in research lead, NIHR Clinical Research Network: North Thames

Neeta Patel, Associate Director, Research Engagement, Barts Health

Redbridge Community Resilience Programme Introductory Workshop Wednesday 9th December 12.30 pm

The British Red Cross are running a Community Resilience Programme working with Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector in Redbridge to better prepare, respond and recover from emergencies.

Communities are around long before an emergency and are usually the first to arrive at an emergency then stay behind to help after it has passed. Resilient communities are better prepared to respond to an emergency and recover without long lasting negative impacts.

On the 9th December at 12:30, the British Red Cross are running introductory Community Resilience Workshops in Redbridge. As you work and/or live in Redbridge, you know the needs of your community best. We want to hear your opinions and involve you in the workshops.

What's in it for you?

This will give you an opportunity to contribute to local workshops, to teach you about local emergency response and potentially take more of a leadership role in your community by becoming a community advocate.

What's in it for you community?

Increase the resilience of your community to be prepared for, respond to and recover from emergencies such as power cuts, fires, and floods.

How to get involved?

Online Community Resilience Workshop on Wednesday 9th of December: [Register here](#)

If you would like more information about the programme please look [here](#) or contact Ben at bhannamdeeming@redcross.org.uk / 07803018362.

Community Christmas Celebration – Saturday 12th December 4.30pm & 6.30 pm

A group of churches in Redbridge have been working together to produce a Community Christmas Celebration online on December 12th at 4.30pm (rebroadcast at 6.30pm). All are invited to join this cross-cultural, virtual programme of thanksgiving, prayer songs, poetry, drama and a message from the Mayor of Redbridge.

To log on and be a part of this event, type the link into your browser: <https://bit.ly/3lffUnG> (Youtube)

<https://bit.ly/3916RPL> (facebook)

Expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone October 2021

The expansion of the ULEZ is a key commitment by the Mayor of London to clean up the air breathed by millions of Londoners. The expansion of the ULEZ will take effect on Monday 25 October 2021, when the existing central London ULEZ will be expanded to cover inner London, over an area bounded by (but not including) the North and South Circular Roads

The expanded zone will operate in the same way as the central London ULEZ does at present. Vehicles driven within the zone will need to meet tough new emissions standards or pay a daily charge. Please visit <https://tfl.gov.uk/ulez-2021> for details

The daily charge runs from midnight to midnight, every day of the year. Drivers can check if their vehicle(s) meet the ULEZ emissions standards (including the expanded zone), by visiting <https://tfl.gov.uk/ulez-2021>

The ULEZ will continue to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including weekends (except Christmas day), with a £12.50 daily charge for vehicles that do not meet the required emissions standards.

Cars, motorcycles, vans and other specialist vehicles (up to and including 3.5 tonnes) and minibuses (up to and including 5 tonnes) will need to meet the required ULEZ emissions standards when driving within and into the expanded zone, or pay a daily charge.

Four out of five cars already meet the ULEZ emissions standards, but we need owners of the remaining older cars, motorcycles, lighter vans and minibuses to take action.

To check your vehicle meets the ULEZ emissions standards and the interactive map of the zone, visit tfl.gov.uk/ulez-2021

Activity	Medium (Tier 1)	High (Tier 2)	Very High (Tier 3)
Opening Places of Worship for communal prayer	Open for as many people as can be safely accommodated with social distancing measures		
Attending Places of Worship for communal prayer	Can attend and interact in groups of up to 6 people from different households	Can only interact indoors with your own households, but outdoors can interact in groups of up to 6	Can only interact with your own household both indoors and outdoors
Wedding Ceremonies	Can take place with up to 15 attendees, all of whom can interact.		
Wedding Receptions	Can take place with up to 15 attendees, all of whom can interact	Can take place with up to 15 attendees, all of whom can interact	Cannot take place
Funerals	Can take place with up to 30 attendees, all of whom can interact		
Commemorative events post-death	Can take place with up to 15 attendees, all of whom can interact		
Other Standalone Life-Cycle Ceremonies – that do not take place as a part of communal worship	Can attend and interact in groups of up to 6 people from different households	Can only interact indoors with your own households, but outdoors can interact in groups of up to 6	Can only interact with your own household both indoors and outdoors
Supervised Activities for Children (including Sunday schools, madrassas etc.)	Can take place with no limit on the number of children permitted to attend, following COVID-Secure guidance. Adults must ensure social distancing at all times.		

NB Wherever interaction can take place, social distancing of 1m+ should still be strictly maintained between anyone who doesn't live together or are in a 'support bubble'.