

## **Hadvering Inter Faith Forum Annual Report 2016-17**

Hadvering Inter Faith Forum was officially inaugurated on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at a meeting at Romford Town Hall.

At the Annual General Meeting of 21 April 2016 the following members were elected as the Executive Committee, which then elected its officers as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Faith</u>
John Lester	Chair	Baha'i
Dave Chuck	Vice-Chair	Christian
Tariq Mahmood	Secretary	Islam
Surinder Tiwari	Assistant- Secretary	Hindu
Sidra Naeem	Member	Islam
Lakhvir Singh Bhui	Member	Sikh
Aloysius Peter	Member	Christian
Barbara Stanley-Hunt	Treasurer	Baha'i
Theo Kayode Osujemi	Member	Christian

The year has seen a variety of activities during the year and signs of a greater interest in the community with an increase in the number of those attending.

Our thanks to Saddhabhaya who continues to look after the website.

**Committee Meetings:** The committee has met on four occasions during the year.

**Key Objectives:** The committee continues to pursue the following key objectives being agreed:

- a) Expanding participation;
- b) Marketing and Publicity;
- c) Developing and Strengthening partnerships;
- d) Creating opportunities for dialogue;
- e) Developing the capacity of the forum.

**Events:** The following open meetings were held during the year:

1. Four Panel Discussion Meetings.

- a) 12 May 2016 at Hadvering Islamic Cultural Centre, Romford – ‘How and When do we Pray?’
- b) 14 September 2016 at Hadvering Islamic Cultural Centre, Romford – ‘How and When did My Faith come to England?’
- c) 23 November 2016 at Hadvering Islamic Cultural Centre, Romford as part of National Inter Faith Week – ‘A Biography of the Founder of My Faith’
- d) 22 February 2016 at Romford Synagogue – ‘The History of Our Scriptures.’

2. Other Meetings.

- e) 21 September, 2016 at The Salvation Army Romford – An inter faith meal.
- f) Two inter faith social/information meetings took place at the Salvation Army Romford during the year in July and October 2016. More such events are planned for the coming year.
- g) An inter faith quiz night took place at The Salvation Army Romford on 22 March 2017 which included a table display for each Faith.

**Displays:** We have had display and information stalls at the following events:

- a) Cottons Park in July 2016.
- b) Havering Show 28-29 August 2016;
- c) Charities Day in Romford Market on 16 December;
- d) Eid celebration at Havering Islamic Cultural Centre on 31 July 2016.
- e) There was no special event for International Women's Day or BME Day this year so there was no opportunity to hold a stall.

Whilst these have not borne tangible results in the sense of people joining, they have attracted interest and positive responses.

**External Links:** We have established and continued contact with the following:

- a) Week of Prayer for World Peace – We bought and distributed 100 leaflets published for this week containing quotations from all Faiths;
- b) We have supported the inter faith gatherings held by Coopers Coborn School in Upminster but unfortunately there was only one meeting this year on 10 November 2016;
- c) We have contributed to the meetings of the London Boroughs Faiths Network in Central London, which has enabled us to meet representatives from other Faith Forums and exchange plans and ideas.
- d) We have had close links with the police over the year. With their encouragement an inter faith discussion meeting was held at the YMCA in Romford in January, which we were able to support.
- e) Two of the committee attended the Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in Romford on 22 January 2017.
- f) We continue to be in close touch with Barking and Dagenham Inter Faith and supported some of their events by our attendance.
- g) We continue to have close links with SACRE with three of the committee actively involved as members.

**Other:** We are represented on various local initiatives such as Child Poverty and Safeguarding Children.

**Finance:** Transactions were as follows:

<u>Income</u>			<u>Expenditure</u>
Opening Balance:£200.18		W.P.W.P. Leaflets	60.00
Donations	30.00	Website renewal	26.39
		Balance at 31.3.17	<u>143.79</u>
	<u>230.18</u>		230.18

**Plans:**

As well as the ongoing objectives being pursued by members of the committee (see above) and the continuation of the inter-faith panel discussions, social evenings and displays (see events above) we are still endeavouring to:

- a) reach the youth of all faiths and none to facilitate understanding and respect between them;
- b) investigate ways in which we can have a close involvement in health issues, particularly ensuring that all faiths are aware of access to NHS facilities.

Finally the Committee would like to register its deepest gratitude to Kim Vasa of the Community Regeneration Team at Havering Council for her invaluable assistance and support.