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Incorporating

The Bridge Project

Unity In Diversity For A Better Burnley

News Sheet 86 August 2010

(For copying and distribution to members of the congregation and staff at all Mosques, Churches and Schools)

Ramadan and Eid 2010

Ramadan in 2010 will start on Wednesday, the **11th of August** and will continue for 30 days until Thursday, the **9th of September**

Note that in the Muslim calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day; so observing Muslims will celebrate Ramadan on the sunset of Tuesday, the **10th of August**.

Although Ramadan is always on the same day of the Islamic calendar, the date on the Gregorian calendar varies from year to year, since the Gregorian calendar is a solar calendar and the Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar. This difference means Ramadan moves in the Gregorian calendar approximately 11 days every year. The date of Ramadan may also vary from country to country depending on whether the moon has been sighted or not.

Eid al-Fitr in 2010 is on Thursday, the **9th of September**

IMPORTANT CHANGE OF DATE

Inter Faith Week

After consultation the date of the Burnley and Pendle Showcase had been changed to the week beginning Monday 22nd November 2010, to bring it in line with the National Interfaith Week, when R E work produced at workshops will be displayed or demonstrated.

The dates of the workshops at the Faith Centre would be the weeks beginning 1st and 8th November. School and faith organisation workshops can be held with partners (e.g. other schools) on dates, at a time, and at a place convenient to those organising them.(see below) Those co-ordinating or organising workshops are being urged to invite faith leaders and faith teachers to help/ be involved. Faith leaders and faith teachers are urged to volunteer.

The outline with regard to the workshops given in a previous News Sheet are the same. More details the workshops and about overall outcomes and learning outcomes we seek to achieve are available from Richard Hoyle at Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre Richard Hoyle E-mail Address rdhoyle@btinternet.com Phone: 07503 491805

Bridges Have Been Built In Burnley Since The 2001 Serious Disturbances

Building Bridges In Burnley has become the prime interfaith dialogue organisation in the town and is seen by the Borough Council as the key player in promoting and developing interfaith dialogue and community cohesion in the Borough.

It's recent Annual General Meeting told a story of continuing hard work and co-operation between the different faiths and faith leaders in the town, mainly Muslim and Christian.

The Chairman, Rafique Malik, in the absence of the President Bishop John Goddard, took the meeting through the election and re-election of Directors and the Presentation of the Annual Report 2009/10, including Accounts.

The Secretary, Colin Wills, reported, in his written report, the events and activities undertaken in the year.

These included feasts, trips, women's meetings, including the regular Face To Faith Meetings, where women of all faiths share their faith and culture and food. There was a written report on the work of the Bridge project which caters for children and young people in school, after school, and at holidays, and the developing and expanding Faith Friends initiative, which has provided a support service for students in a Burnley College and which will be extended into a second college in 2010/11.

The unique and ground breaking Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre, established and by Building Bridges In Burnley and Lancashire County Council, had a piece from its co-ordinator in the report about it's work.

In his verbal comments the secretary thanked the Directors, staff and supporters for their continued commitment and support.

He concluded by urging faith groups, especially locally, to be prepared to respond to the Governments proposed, but unclear 'Big Society'. Otherwise they would be spectators in the scramble for resources.

Community Award Certificates were presented to nine local organisations, two nursery schools and one primary school for their positive contribution to interfaith dialogue and community cohesion. **continued on page 2**

A Government Pronouncement About Faith Communities

Communities Minister Andrew Stunell said that faith groups are making a vital contribution to national life, and are integral to creating the Big Society.

Speaking to a large audience at the annual meeting of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, he told delegates that inter faith activity and faith groups were inspiring people to contribute to public service and providing support to those in need.

Mr. Stunell said:

"Faith communities make a vital contribution to national life, guiding the moral outlook of many, inspiring great numbers of people to public service, providing succour to those in need. They are helping to bind together local communities and improve relations at a time when the siren call of extremism has never been louder.

"Inter faith activity is more important than ever in our work towards the Big Society, so I want to push for more inter faith dialogue and action rather than individual faith groups delivering social projects."

For the greater good

He added:

"People of faith are at the heart of civic society in local communities, and have been for decades.

"Of course there are many different approaches, but there is a shared goal: building understanding between people from different backgrounds - not just sitting round tables but working together for the common good and tackling shared problems - be it picking up litter or challenging the far right.

"It is not about compromising our individual beliefs - indeed we often come to understand and appreciate our own faith more when we are called upon to explain it to one another. But it is about respect for the other, the recognition of shared values and shared needs, and the will to action.

"Interfaith groups are part of what we want to see: people reaching out to each other across boundaries of religion to make life better for all."

Women Friendly Mosques

Faith Matters, an interfaith and conflict resolution organisation, has produced a directory which list the women friendly mosques in the country. Women were consulted about the criteria to be used to compile the list. A hundred are listed.

Faith Matters Working Towards Conflict Resolution and Cohesion Through Work with Faith Communities in the UK and the Middle East "Facilitating Faith Communities to Reduce Conflict"

<http://faithmatters.org>

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 Geoff Summers of St. Andrew's Church PCC also received a certificate. He had chaired the Bridge Project Management Meeting each month since March 2002. It had now been absorbed by BBB.

Finally, the principal Officer, Nasrullah Anwar, appointed in September 2009, reflected on his time working for BBB, and the difficult financial future that lay ahead.

Burnley Community Festival Queen's Park, Sunday 22nd August 2010

Faith Tent

(Sponsors BBB and Churches Together In Central Burnley and supported by Burnley Lane Fellowship of Churches)

There are still a few spaces in the Faith Tent in Queens Park. **Our theme this year is Creation and the Environment.** Please contact Kath Bill on 01282 413599 for further information and a booking form. We owe a big thank you to all our sponsors and supporters. Please help us to make this year's tent even better than last year.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Faith Tent.

Faith Friends

An evaluation meeting took place in July about the work undertaken at Shuttleworth College. This will continue in the next academic year. In addition Blessed Trinity are likely to be involved if volunteers can be recruited.

Congratulations Bea Foster

Born and bred in Burnley, a Methodist local preacher who has given a life time of service to the Youth and Community Service, Bea won the 2010 Best of Burnley Equality and Diversity Award "for her innovative and pioneering work to bring different communities together and to build up trust between them. She established the Breaking Barriers Project to bring together young people from different backgrounds to build new friendships and understanding of each others cultures"

She has been involved with Building Bridges In Burnley for several years and has been a director for the last few months.

It all began at the former Hollingreave Congregational Church (now Gatefield Court) where she volunteered to run the church youth club when she was only sixteen.

Womens Volunteering Project - Shabnum Bashir

We have to date 7 volunteers who have expressed an interest particularly in volunteering for community projects and training opportunities.

There is to be an informal gathering of local women who have accessed services such as Sure Start and Daneshouse community centre to establish current needs for the women of Burnley. A referral system has been set up with CVS who will refer volunteers that meet the criteria outlined in the funding bid.

We are also working closely with the women's centre and hope to recruit more volunteers through organising and facilitating current development needs within the community be they religious, educational, social or recreational. A new volunteer policy has also been put in place.

Racial Justice Sunday is 12th September 2010

Very Good News

The Bridge Project has secured funding for the next three years from the Henry Smith Foundation. This match funds the Community Fund money already secured and is a tremendous boost to the organisation in these difficult financial times. The money will enable activities to be provided for the children and young peoples work to continue.

This work, which include an after school club, Young women's Arts and Crafts group, drama group, holiday activities, weekend residentials, holiday activities, as well as weekly work in schools concentrates on equality, diversity and cohesion work and contributes significantly to increasing knowledge and understand and co-operation.

The work is carried out by a team of part time workers led by Margaret Richardson and Chelsea Wooler.

Face To Faith (Women only)

The next meetings are planned for 21st September and 23rd November.

Next BBB Meetings

BBB Board Meeting - Tuesday 17th August 2010, 6pm, St Andrews Church Hall inc. election of officers. All faith representatives and people of faith or no faith welcome.

Emailing The Office

Sandra will be using this e-mail address - sandra@bbburnley.co.uk - for certain items, but - buildingbridgesburnley@googlemail.com - is still the primary e-mail address.

Web *Building Bridges Burnley* is having up to 200 hits a month.



Burnley Borough
Council

Henry Smith
Foundation



