

# Bolton Interfaith Council

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APRIL 2011



BOLTON INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Working

## Welcome to our Newsletter

### ABOUT US

*The mission of the Bolton Interfaith Council is to promote harmony, understanding and cooperation between all members of the Bolton community, especially regarding issues that relate to faith and belief.*

Towards

### PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The real strength of Interfaith work for Community Cohesion is our work in partnership with all faith & community groups, Bolton Council and schools through the Faith Trails & school assemblies. Last year BIC strengthened its partnership working with many groups by attending & holding our own events. We appreciate the support from our colleagues at Bolton Christian Community Cohesion, Bolton Council of Mosques, Bolton Hindu Forum, Bolton Council and many places of worship as well as community groups and schools who support our work in many ways.

### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

A MEMORIAL service for victims of the Holocaust was held in Bolton Town Hall's Albert Hall on 27th January 2011. This traditional ceremony remembers the millions murdered by the Nazis during the Second World War. It was well supported by many groups.



Trust

And

Understanding

### SURVIVING THE FUNDING CUTS

The funding cuts – ironically coming at the same time as the ‘Big Society’ idea is being promoted - has its own challenges for Bolton Interfaith Council. Funding has become a major issue. Despite the small budget, we have had a continuous programme of events and activities each year to promote community cohesion. We also started up the Bolton Interfaith Young Ambassadors and this is now a thriving group. Due to the help we receive from Bolton Council and others, we are able to promote interfaith dialogue and activities with success. Community groups and schools from further a field have also come on our Faith Trails because of our successful working partnerships with so many places of worship in Bolton. Now we have to face the future and find new ways of delivering our services. Unfortunately the challenges still remain. We still aspire to help in achieving that ‘One Bolton’ vision where we all feel part of one ‘family’ and are not living in isolation.

Between

All

Communities



# SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Fundraising  
for  
the  
Pakistan  
floods



**Charity Collection Events-** Last year we also had two major charity collection events for Haiti Earthquake & Pakistan flood victims. The previous year we also coordinated the Burma cyclone event. All three combined we collected almost £7,500 in partnership with the British Red Cross.

**Community Events-** As an ongoing part of community cohesion work, we participate in activities like, the Mayor's mile - making contribution to peace & diversity panel, Black History event & others.

**Faith Trails and School Assemblies-** are a major and prominent part in our work. Last year well over 1400 individuals visited various places of worship. Majority of these were schools for whom the faith trail is an important piece of work for encouraging community cohesion as well as fulfilling the R.E. curriculum. We have had excellent feedback from schools & community groups.

Interfaith Council

works to  
promote good  
partnerships  
and the  
positive  
multicultural  
Image  
of  
our  
town



## 'Spirit of Bolton' Community Event

Last year 'Spirit of Bolton' was extremely well supported by many groups and with it being a really sunny day it was a wonderful, well attended community event.

We hope this year 'Spirit of Bolton' will be an excellent 'One Bolton' community event to be held on 10th Sept 2011 in the Victoria Square. If you would like to take part in this wonderful community event then please ring our office.

(photograph from the beginning of last year's event)



## Interfaith Young Ambassadors



This was a marvellous achievement for Aamna. She works very hard not only with her studies but also in her community work. Upon receiving the award Aamna said "she was very much honoured and privileged to receive this prestigious award".

**Photograph  
courtesy of  
Bolton  
News**

*Congratulations to Aamna and our sincere appreciation to all our ambassadors for their support.*

We recognise the value of working and engaging with young people.

Now a well established project which has been very rewarding for everyone associated with it. The group have 'jelled' well over the past 3 years and there are success stories for all of us to be proud of. Each individual is very much valued and this project allows the members to develop their potential through activities and helps them to be more 'worldly' as well as to 'think outside the box'. We see members of the group playing a key role in our communities in the future. One of our success stories recently being Aamna Alam who is a head girl at the Essa Academy earned a Princess Diana award for young people.

Also congratulations to Monica our volunteer who was a worthy runner-up for the 'Woman of the Year' award



Young Ambassadors with 'One Bolton Pledge' at Eid and Diwali event

***"If we want to  
create a  
lasting peace  
we must begin  
with our  
children"-  
Mahatma  
Gandhi***

## PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

### CHAPLAINCY: Interfaith Perspectives

A short partnership course organised by Bolton Christian Community Cohesion, Bolton Council of Mosques, Bolton Hindu Forum, The University of Bolton as well as members of faith communities has just been completed.

Venues for the course were the University of Bolton, Zakariyya Central Masjid, St Andrew and St Georges Church and Veda Mandir.

The award ceremony will take place at BCOM offices on the 16th April 2011.

### 'Passion for Bolton' - organised by our colleagues from Christian Community Cohesion

This unique event about the Easter story and the life of Lord Jesus will be performed as a large scale drama for the whole family. It will be held in Victoria Square in Bolton on the 23rd April 2011 at 11.45am to 1.45pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend this family event.

## KAKI TREE PROJECT

It is a year since the 'Kaki Tree' came to Bolton. It was handed over by representatives from Nagasaki in a ceremony at Bolton Town Hall. The tree was received by pupils from Mytham Road Primary School, Little Lever and put in a temporary plot in the school garden. Soon it will be replanted into the specially prepared peace garden by the school meeting place.

The Kaki Tree is a direct descendant from one that survived the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki in 1945. The Kaki Revive Trust donates the tree to remind us how new life came from that terrible bomb and how any place in the world can be revived when communities, artists and children work together on projects that promote friendship and understanding. The school and everyone connected with the Kaki Tree will be invited to a reunion in 2020.



Kaki Tree

World of Food Festival @ Nightingale Centre on 30th April  
One Bolton—5K Run @ Reebok Stadium on 8th May  
Building Peace in Diverse Britain organised by our colleagues @ Northern Friends Peace Board to be held @ Huddersfield Quaker Meeting House

### INTERFAITH SUPPORT

**GROUP** - Last year also saw the launch of Interfaith Support Group which is an important part of our work upon where individuals interested in interfaith work in the community can come together & discuss, inform & share information.

### COMMUNITY

### PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

The Bolton Documentary Photography Group have been following our work for the past year. As this project comes to an end, we hope to organise a launch date for the photo exhibition.

**Do you want to be on our mailing list to hear news of future events?**

Please let us know.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you want to join our volunteer list: Volunteers are always welcome. You can help with: Administration; support at events; Faith Trails; Project development; Interfaith Young Ambassadors. CRB checks will be necessary for all volunteers.

### FAITH DIRECTORY

Listings of all places of worship for all Faiths is available now on our website.

### EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

The Bolton Interfaith Council is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. The executive team consists of 10 members including faith leaders and members from other organizations.

### FORTHCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 11th**- Support group
- May 12th**- Greater Manchester Faith Network Meeting in Bolton
- July 8th - 10th** - Leadership Residential for Young Ambassadors
- Aug 10th**- Support group
- Sept 10th**- **Spirit of Bolton - Everyone welcome to participate**
- Oct 20th**- One World Peace Prayers
- Nov 9th** - Support group
- Nov 20th-26th**- National Interfaith Week of activities.

Our sincere appreciation to Bolton Council, Faiths in Action, Bolton CVS, Bolton Christian Community Cohesion, Bolton Council of Mosques, Bolton Hindu Forum, Interfaith Network UK, Bolton Documentary Photography Group & many other partners who support our community cohesion work.

**For any information contact:**  
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