

banner



Bahá'í Journal UK

Journal of the Bahá'í Community of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Volume 19, No.4 – September, 2002 / 159BE

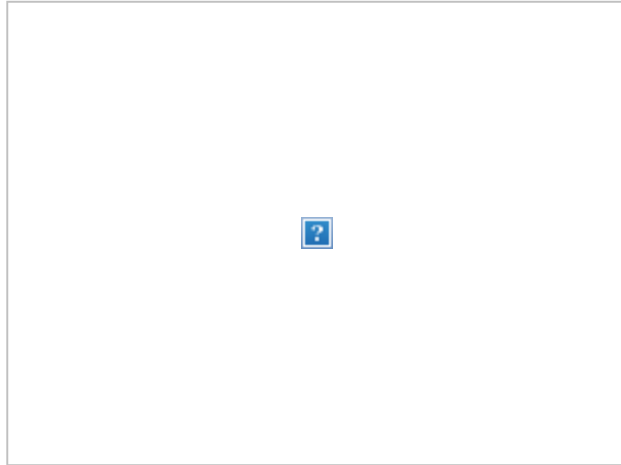
 LARGE PRINT / Standard Print.UK Community News

UK Community News

Diversity 21 award for Inter-Faith Forum

ON TUESDAY, June 25, the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum won the Northern Ireland Diversity 21 award for the development of training materials on the faith communities in Northern Ireland (including materials on the Bahá'í Faith).

The award was presented by the Minister for Culture Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland, Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA, and was received on behalf of the Inter-Faith Forum by Dr Beman Khosravi, a Bahá'í from Belfast, in his capacity as the Treasurer of the Inter-Faith Forum.



Dr Beman Khosravi receiving the Diversity 21 award from Mr Michael McGimpsey, MLA

This award for the Inter-Faith Forum is a great signal of the growing acceptance of the value of Inter-Faith dialogue. It also marks a significant step in the official recognition of the Bahá'í Faith in Northern Ireland.

Londonderry Deepenings

LONDONDERRY ASSEMBLY are running a regular "Deepening in Derry" series of meetings. The July one was given by sixteen-years-old Colin Palin on the subject "Using Technology for the Faith".

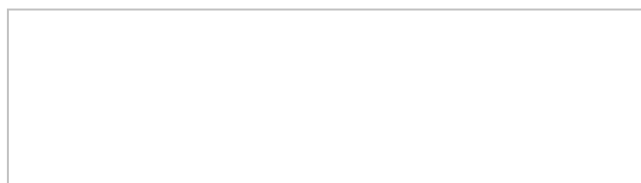
Colin didn't just talk about his subject, he demonstrated it with projected computer presentations of the sort of ways technology can be put to service through PowerPoint and other means.

Starting with simple tasks like preparing a community song-sheet for use at Feasts, he went on to show how PowerPoint can enhance talks and demonstrated the emotional power of "galleries" – a form of computerised slide show using images and music to create an effect and communicate a message. He also referred to other ways in which the new technology could serve the Faith, particularly the Internet and the World-Wide Web.

Colin emphasised that modern technology has much to offer the Faith and his examples showed how it is possible to make use of it at local level to enhance and develop Bahá'í activities as well as our outreach into the wider community.

Slough Exhibition

SLOUGH COMMUNITY recently had an exhibition on the Faith which opened on May 2 and generated a great deal of publicity.



The exhibition was divided into five sections: Bahá'ís and the Community, Pilgrimage, World Peace, A Bahá'í Home, and Prayer and Meditation. A Tranquillity Zone and a "Peace Tree" ensured an interactive element.



Slough community's exhibition, which opened on May 2.

Neighbouring communities, particularly Reading, gave great support and loaned items to exhibit, thereby demonstrating how clusters can work well together. As a result of the press contact, Igan Hayati has been asked to contribute regularly to the Slough Observer for its "Word for the Week" column.

Fiftieth Anniversary of The Faith in the Channel Islands

DEAR FRIENDS,

Most of you seem aware of the Jubilee celebrations planned for the Scottish Islands but are you also aware that 2003 will also see the 50th Anniversary of The Faith in the Channel Islands?

It is perhaps a measure of how difficult it is to expand The Faith in these islands, that we have two Knights of Bahá'u'lláh, Mr Zia'u'llah Asgharzardih and Miss Evelyn Baxter and both are buried here in Jersey.

Sadly, we do not have a large community, although we do have a busy one, comprising just three adults and a child, our most staunch member being Miss Beryl De Gruchy, who as a native islander, returned to her home as The Guardian requested. She has patiently "ploughed this particular field" for over 40 years. She will also celebrate her 90th birthday next year!

We need help! We would like as many people as possible to consider taking a holiday in our beautiful island next year. The more Bahá'í visitors we can get the more publicity we will be able to obtain. We want the wider population to really hear us. They already think we more numerous than we are and we have steadily gained a good level of cover in the local Press but always need new material, an excuse to continue the TV coverage begun from the Opening of The Terraces and make the radio want to include us. Those willing to travel teach would be of especial benefit.

What about those of you considering home front pioneering? Jersey is a major challenge. Help us fulfil our goal of an Assembly within The Five Year Plan. We have full employment and jobs available, particularly for professionals, if you are willing to negotiate your way around our complex housing laws and high cost of living.

Students/youth might consider seasonal work for short term pioneering.

If anyone has any connection with Jersey at all contact us. If anyone has interesting memories of time spent in Jersey contact us.

If anyone has memories or stories of either of our Knights of Bahá'u'lláh contact us.

Finally, but actually foremost we need friends supporting us through prayer.

Our beloved Guardian was well aware of us and The Universal House of Justice has us in their hearts, so dear friends please, please do consider us.

Loving greetings,
The Bahá'ís of Jersey

**Bahá'í Stall at Kingston
Green Fair**

Green Fair

KINGSTON community ran a stall at Kingston upon Thames annual Green fair on June 3. There were a number of enquirers who took away pamphlets and promised to attend firesides. The photo on the right was taken by Karine Torr and shows Douglas Jenkyns who made the beautiful exhibition, Dianne Mahboubi on the left with helpers Margaret Carloa and Mitra Mahboubi.



First Local Spiritual Assembly of Cheltenham

THE PICTURE on the right shows the first Spiritual Assembly of Cheltenham, elected at Ridván. The membership of the Assembly is truly multi-cultural! Four Iranians, two English, one from St Helena, one from Norway and one from Australia (originally from Taiwan).



Back row: Houshang Eshraghi-Yazdi, Maziar Eshraghi-Yazdi, Darren Howell, Fred Chen.
Sitting: Parvaneh Eshraghi-Yazdi, Miranda Jackson, Effat Mansourian
Front Row: Tanya George & Helene Kragh

The Queen's Golden Jubilee Service – St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Suffolk

THE BISHOP of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich together with the Dean and Chapter of St Edmundsbury Cathedral formally invited two representatives of the Suffolk Bahá'í community to attend the County Golden Jubilee Celebration. The Director of the Suffolk Interfaith made the invitation after considering nominations. The interfaith procession, including two representatives from the Hindu, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, Pagan and Sikh communities, was formally escorted under wand and banner in twoabreast slow column march behind the procession of Her Majesty's Jubilee Charities and ahead of the resident Christian procession.

The Cathedral, unique for the fact that it was built upon the location of a martyred Christian King, was completely full. Mrs Deborah McKinley and Mr Andrew Clarke represented the Bahá'í Faith and had a fruitful time conversing with many notable religious and national personages present, many of whom were specifically interested to learn of the Faith and its progress. This marks the first occasion where the Bahá'í Faith was accorded VIP status in the county.

The Queen's Golden Jubilee in Kingston upon Thames

ON THURSDAY June 25, 2002 I was fortunate to have been invited to represent the Bahá'í community at the celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.



The Mayor and former mayors were present along with the MP, Edward Davey, MEPs and councillors. Representatives from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Bahá'í communities

were present, as well as education department staff and the chief executive of the Royal Borough, Mr Bruce McDonald.

Mitra with her daughter, and two young friends, waiting for the Queen to arrive.

Dianne Andrea Mahboubi, Secretary Kingston upon Thames

Jody does it again!

JODY WARD, a 13-year-old Doncaster Bahá'í child, has come up trumps once again in raising funds for our Beloved Faith. Last year, Jody managed to raise around £100 with a four-hour sponsored silence – quite a challenge for a 12 year-old girl!

On hearing the appeal for the International Fund, and the new “Endowment Fund”, other Bahá'ís in the community pondered how they could help. Jody skipped the pondering and quickly sprang into action with her sponsor forms and started training for a sponsored swim.

When the day arrived, Jody bravely managed 47 lengths in one hour (almost a mile) and managed to raise over £125 for the International Fund! The children and youth in our community are an inspiration to us all as they obediently follow Bahá'u'lláh's advice which we adults sometimes struggle with: “*Let deeds, not words, be your adorning.*”^[1] Well done Jody and thank you!

1 Bahá'u'lláh: Hidden Words from the Persian, No. 5



Copyright, © 2002, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom. All rights reserved.

