

Cheltenham Interfaith

Report to the membership

After the AGM last April a steering group was formed to look at the future for Cheltenham Interfaith (CIF) and to report back to membership after 6 months.

The key decision is that the steering group believes CIF has a viable future.

We have re-organised the steering group with clearly defined roles and responsibilities and put in place the outline of a rolling 12 month programme of activity.

After the AGM you may recall that we were going to look at the following

- * A programme of activity
- * Work with other community organisations in organising events
- * Three high profile speakers per year to draw in larger attendances
- * More participative events such as discussions, music, film and food
- * Deliver events that bring different faith communities together. Food and music are great enablers. We can do this both by ourselves and in conjunction with others.
- * Spend some time understanding why we have not been successful in broadening our appeal to under-represented faith groups in CIF and what would attract them to join
- * Look at how to attract younger members
- * Look at varying venues for events
- * Improve our publicity, especially social media

Activity so far

Last July we organised an event looking at “A day in the life of a Muslim, a Hindu, a Jew and a Modern Druid”. People were asked to bring food to share. Feedback was very positive and we plan other similar events. We were also due to have a speaker this October, Marcus Armstrong who was going to talk to us about the work of peacekeepers in Northern Iraq. Unfortunately we had to cancel this meeting but hope to reschedule for December this year.

The Steering Group

The steering group comprises Jack Liebeskind, Vasanthi Shankar, Debarati Nair, Hamid Charafi, and Kevin Devaney. Sophie Franklin has agreed to continue to act as treasurer and membership secretary. Sarah Mar will continue on the steering group but will step down when a permanent committee is formed.

Roles and responsibilities were agreed as follows:

Chair – Jack

Treasurer – Sophie

Programme Managers – Debarati, Kevin, Jack

Cross faith coordinator – Jack

Individual faith focal points

Islam – Hamid

Hindu – Vasanthi

Christian/Jewish – Jack

Baha'i -Sarah

Others – Kevin

Community organisations link – Kevin, Hamid

Interfaith organisation link - Jack

Publicity - Vasanthi

Rolling 12 month programme.

Event Action Timing

Marcus Armstrong Reschedule Jack December 2018

National Interfaith Week event Sophie communicate Nov 14th

to members

Salvation Army speaker Sophie/Kevin Dec/Q1 2019

Archbishop Kevin McDonald Confirm plus venue Feb 2019

Jack

AGM TBA April

3 weddings and a funeral TBA 2Q

Role of prayer in different TBA 3Q

faiths

Festivals and their foods TBA 3Q

The “Big Question” Hamid TBA

A humanist speaker Kevin TBA

A music event Vasanthi TBA

Mosque visit Hamid TBA

Visit to a Hindu Temple TBA TBS

We will formally relaunch CIF this year. We are putting together a Facebook page and other social media presence and we hope that this will help us to reach a wider audience.

Subs will continue to be held at £10 annually and we will be communicating on this to members shortly.

Finally all of this needs to be ratified at the AGM and we plan to hold this next April as usual.

Jack Liebeskind

Chair