

Grassroots

... a different point of view

Newsletter Edition 2 – Summer 2014

Working to build community amongst
Luton's diverse people

Partner of Luton Council of Faiths, Ghar se Ghar and New Creations

Welcome to the second edition of the GRASSROOTS newsletter!

Produced quarterly, we aim to stay in contact with friends far and near, give regular updates of what GRASSROOTS is doing and let you know about forthcoming events. We hope you enjoy the newsletters. Please let us know what you think!

What is GRASSROOTS?

GRASSROOTS is a small Christian community organisation. Set up in 1991, we work with Churches and people of all faiths and cultures to build a strong community in the town of Luton and beyond. GRASSROOTS spearheads a variety of initiatives aimed at bringing diverse people together; the team can also be found behind the scenes of numerous events, supporting the work of our partners. For more information about our history and work to date, please see our website at www.grassrootsluton.org.uk

Can we Help?

The GRASSROOTS team welcome invitations to lead worship, give talks, deliver diversity training and support other groups. Please get in touch for more information.

Getting Involved

If you would like to support our work, why not join the brand new 'Friends of GRASSROOTS'? Donations of time, talent or finances are always much appreciated. Visit our website to find out more:

[www.grassrootsluton.org.uk/
get-involved](http://www.grassrootsluton.org.uk/get-involved)

We look forward to hearing from you!

This year seems to be speeding past, and so we are at the time to send our second newsletter. Many thanks for all the responses we received following circulating the first edition of Grassroots newsletter. It is always encouraging to hear from friends near and far, and we were very affirmed by the positive feedback we have received. Please do feel free to continue to give any feedback or suggestions. We hope that you have an enjoyable summer, and we look forward to hearing from you soon. With our warmest greetings from Luton!

The Grassroots Team (June 2014)

What's Been Happening in Luton...

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Various Churches Together Groups in Luton organised Good Friday Walks of Witness. Christians of various denominations walked together, carrying the Cross and visiting Churches as Prayer Stations, remembering Christ's journey carrying the cross to Calvary. Grassroots team members supported this event by taking part in the different walks.

Luton Poppy Appeal

Organised by Luton Poppy Appeal, members of various community groups, including Grassroots and Luton Council of Faiths, got involved a poppy seed scattering event as part of the commemorations marking 100 years since World War I. Under the project, commemorations take place over the course of the next 4 years, allowing Lutonians to plant a poppy to remember all those who fought and died in World War I and in other conflicts, and those actively serving our country today to keep us safe.



Remembering Christ's journey to Calvary through the Walk of Witness



Planting Poppy Seeds as part of Luton's Poppy Appeal



Luton's Community Archery Instructors undergoing training

Luton Archery Project Update

"I'm rubbish at sport", "I'd never be confident enough to go to a gym", "I hate exercise". We all know that sport can inspire, challenge and bring a great sense of achievement and well being. But it is so easy to feel that sport is not for us.

Led by Luton Council of Faiths (LCoF) in partnership with GRASSROOTS, Luton's Archery Project aims to inspire Lutonians of all backgrounds to get involved in this historic, fun and inclusive sport. So far, 24 community volunteers and leaders have been trained as instructors in 3-4 main centres in Luton. This training has included First Aid and Mental Health First Aid, and training as Community Health Champions! Luton's community archery instructors will help to bring archery to many others in our communities in Luton. To find out more about the project please contact info@lutonfaiths.org

Exciting New Project and New Staff Appointment: Near Neighbours Project Luton



Kim Greig (Luton's Near Neighbours Co-ordinator)



Christian & Muslim Befriending each other



At Near Neighbours Briefing Session - John McCallum Near Neighbours Coordinator from Leicester with Bishop Richard & Jasvinder Nagra of Luton Gurdwara

In Spring 2014, Luton welcomed the news of the Near Neighbours programme coming to town. With the support of Rt. Revd Bishop Richard Atkinson, two briefing sessions were organised informing Luton's Churches and Faith Communities about the exciting opportunities available to them.

Funding applications can be submitted from 9th June 2014 until December 2015. Grants between £250 - £5,000 are available for activities meeting the programme criteria.

We are very excited to announce as of 1st June, Kim Greig has been appointed as Luton's Near Neighbours Co-ordinator.

Near Neighbours is all about empowering local people to identify and develop solutions to improve their community. The programme is about bringing people from different faiths and cultural backgrounds together, to get to know each other better, build relationships of trust, and work together on initiatives that improve the local community they live in. Luton has many individuals and groups already doing great work and this is a chance for people to access support to continue and develop this work.

In the words of Elizabeth Carnelley, National Director for Near Neighbours Programme, *"It is not about creating big projects but supporting ordinary people to do extraordinary things."*

For more details please contact newly appointed Near Neighbours (Luton) Coordinator, Kim Greig on 01582-416946 or 07930601640 or near.neighbours_luton@btconnect.com

Friends of Grassroots

Grassroots is looking at setting up a Friends of Grassroots group. Grassroots would not be able to function without your much appreciated support, goodwill, prayers and practical help. Many of you are already giving so much of your time, energy, talents and resources to your own Churches and other charitable organisations, so the idea is not to burden you anymore, but to invite you and anyone you may know who could add to the ongoing work of Grassroots by Volunteering, Praying, Fundraising, Donating and providing Moral Support. An email/letter will be circulated in due course. In the meantime, please do get in contact if you would be interested in joining this group, and thank you for all your support and goodwill.

Dates for your Diary

A Community Picnic in the Park is taking place at Dallow Downs (Runley Park entrance) on Saturday 22nd June at 2:30pm. This is a family friendly event with kite flying, games & storytelling, and an educational guided walk at 1:30pm.

Annual Bishop's Cricket Cup - Sunday 3rd August. All are invited to take part in this event. Please contact info@lutonfaiths.org if you would like to take part in the multi-faith cricket team.

Luton Peace Walk is to take place on Saturday 20th September 2014. This year's event is bound to be an exciting one, taking place in the Farley Hill area of Luton, working with the Reconciliation Walk Community (see www.recwalk.net). The event will finish with a delicious afternoon tea! More details to follow soon!

East of England Fairtrade Conference is taking place on Saturday 18th October 2014. With a Fairtrade producer, leaders in the Fairtrade movement and Fairtrade campaigners from across the region and country, this is an event not to be missed. Please do put the date in your diary!