



Dor Kemmyn Newsletter

An Interfaith Centre for Cornwall



No. 4

www.dorkemmyn.org.uk

Winter 2013

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the Dor Kemmyn newsletter. It has been a busy time during the Autumn and there are plans afoot for events and school's work in the new year. On 17th October a celebration was held at Penmount for Dor Kemmyn's obtaining planning permission and charitable status.

Rita Stephen, Interfaith Development Worker writes ...

On a bright and blustery day the seven faith communities in Cornwall, and friends of Dor Kemmyn, came together to celebrate the achievement of obtaining planning permission and charity status. Introduction and welcoming comments were made by both Andrew Yates, Chair of the Cornwall Faith Forum and by Susan Cannan, Bereavement Services Manager of Cornwall Council.

Matt Robinson, Dor Kemmyn's Architect, outlined the plans for the building as he walked around the elliptical shape of the wooden posts showing the size and shape of the Inter Faith Centre. Matt had named the structure 'Woodhenge' which he had set into the ground – posts made out of different species of wood and of different heights.



Children from Archbishop Benson School

The newly elected Grandbard for Cornwall, Maureen Fuller gave a Celtic Blessing in Cornish and in English. Archbishop Benson School children sang two wonderful songs about unity and worship which captivated the audience.

There were readings from each of the seven faith communities about the importance of faiths working together for the benefit of the whole community. The Rt. Reverend Bishop Tim Thornton gave a reading on behalf of the Christian community. Cllr Mary Mae, spoke on behalf of Cornwall Council and the Bereavement Services Committee and said "I am very happy that the Inter-Faith Centre is going to be build at Penmount". Penmount crematorium is set in a tranquil 23-acre former country house estate with beautiful gardens and woodlands



Lord Lieutenant Colonel Bolitho installed the last post

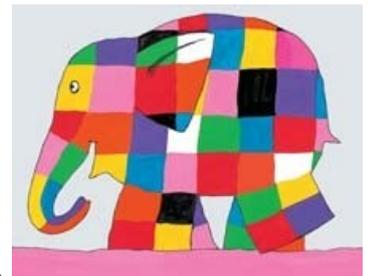
Donna Birrell from BBC Radio Cornwall broke a coconut to bring good luck to the project. Sanjay Kumar, one of the Hindu representatives taught Donna how to break the coconut on a piece of Cornish granite. He explained that: "In India, coconuts are broking at the start of an important project much like bottles of champagne are broken on boats before their first journey".

Lord Lieutenant Colonel Bolitho installed the last post in an ellipse of wooden posts showing the prayer space of the Centre and said "I am proud to be associated with this grand project which brings people from different faiths together".

By tradition the ceremony closed by saying together The International Peace Prayer. A moment of silence followed where we all able to savour the atmosphere and the true essence of unity between the faiths. We then retreated to the marquee to share food together and to meet with one another and to talk about the building and Dor Kemmyn's path for the future and the immense significance of today's event.

October 2012 - Black History Month

Shibon Armstrong from the Inspiring Women's Network (IWN) writes Black History month is a regular event held throughout the month of October across various towns and cities in the UK. Despite its popularity, Cornwall has never held such an event...so we, at (IWN) took this opportunity to celebrate and share our African and Caribbean history and organised 2 cultural events which we held at Truro Community Library.



The first event was a family based fun event. The theme was based on a children's book, 'Elmer the Elephant'. This book was read to the children during the storytelling time and the children really got involved. Our second event was again based at Truro library. This was a literary evening where we invited guests to share a poem or a passage from a favourite book written by a Black or Asian author.

The feedback received on the two events was fabulous. IWN will continue to work at raising the public's awareness to diversity and answer any burning questions that society has but have been afraid to ask.

Joyous Diwali celebrations in Cornwall

Shilpa Jain writes On November 17, 2012 Dor Kemmyn members of different faiths came together to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights in Cornwall. In Hindu culture light signifies knowledge that dispels the darkness of ignorance and this festival affirms the belief that knowledge about other religions brings harmony between communities.

Diwali decorations began in the afternoon and required collective creative talents of Kathy, Anne, Rosey, Rita, Philomena, Sanjay and Shilpa. Once decorations were put up, it was time to spread light with innumerable little candles around the room and welcome everyone to be part of the Diwali celebrations.

The oil lamps, ringing of bells, the flowers, the incense and pouring of water and the offering/ sharing of foods- prasad – these are the basic elements of Hindu worship ceremony or Puja. Shilpa and Sanjay performed Diwali puja while reading Laxmi chalisa (prayer for goddess Laxmi with 40 verses) in Sanskrit. This was followed by everyone lighting a candle to make sure the not one corner was in darkness. Good conversations over shared food wrapped up the event.

The successful Diwali event sums up the collective spirit of Dor Kemmyn. There is a growing need and simultaneous acceptance for one common ground in Cornwall, where cultural and religious differences become the fabric of unity amongst diversity. Let there be light..



Sanjay and Shilpa celebrating Diwali

Visits to Faith Communities – an update from Rita Stephen, Inter Faith Development Worker

Visits to the faith communities in Cornwall have been made since last autumn. As planning permission has been obtained for the building it is now possible for us to start planning the Inter Faith Centre in detail. Thus the faith communities have been asked for their advice and support. The communities have been really welcoming and so Dor Kemmyn has been able to visit the Jewish, Baha'i, Hindu and Christian communities.

Matt Robinson (the Architect) and Andrew Yates (Chair, Cornwall Faith Forum) visited the Jewish community in August 2012 and the news of planning permission was very happily received. The meeting was on the same day as we heard from the planning department, great timing. In September, the Baha'i community invited me to a Baha'i feast in Penzance. Baha'i feasts are held every 19 days and bring the community together for worship. It was wonderful to be able to take part in the worship and the food, tea and discussion afterwards. Many thanks to Manijeh. On the 23th of September, the Hindu community celebrated Vinayak Chartuti: the festival of Ganesha. The festival was celebrated in Falmouth and was full of colour, flowers, laughter and food. Many thanks to Shipra and Shilpa for the invite.

Visits will be made to the Buddhist, Muslim and Pagan communities in the next few months, the first one being the Pagan Federation Devon, Cornwall and Channel Isles Spring Conference on the 9th of March. We are looking forward to it.

Dor Kemmyn Schools' Work

Unfortunately the proposed visit to the Five Islands School on 22nd & 23rd November was postponed owing to the adverse weather conditions. However we are looking forward to the rescheduled visit in the Spring 2013.



Rita with her airline ticket to the Scillies

During February, Mubeen Azam from the Roseland College has invited Dor Kemmyn with unique opportunity to provide workshops for the Year 11 students. The theme for the morning is 'GCSE's and Beyond' and will be focusing on finances and how to deal with recession from different faith perspectives. The faith representatives have been asked to prepare a worksheet with their comments on the five following topics: Medical Ethics, Wealth and Poverty, Belief about deity, Religious Experience, Death and Afterlife. The faith representatives are very much looking forward to their visit.

Coming up

**Dor Kemmyn celebrates
Tu B'shevat -
The Jewish New Year for Trees.
Sunday, 10th February at 2.00 pm,
Penmount, Truro**



Everyone is welcome to join Dor Kemmyn with a short ceremony for Tu B'shevat with readings about trees. We will also plant a cherry tree. Wrap up warm and bring hot flasks and cup cakes to share. For further information please contact Rita Stephen, Interfaith Development Worker for the Dor Kemmyn Project R.H.Stephen@exeter.ac.uk or tel. 07775 937 485 or e-mail info@dorkemmyn.org.uk

**Cornwall Faith Forum Open Meeting
Theme - Peace—Bring a reading to share
Thursday, 18th April at 7.30 pm**

(refreshments from 7.00 pm), Epiphany House, Truro.
For further information contact Andrew Yates
andrew.yates@truro.anglican.org

For further information on any of the items in this newsletter please contact:

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