



UK Community News

Fund-raising barbecue in Stockport

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FRIENDS FROM Stockport community, Greater Manchester and beyond took part in a fund-raising event and barbecue on September 9 at the home of Dr Nagendra and Mrs Azar Sarmah. The friends enjoyed a beautiful sunny day and delicious food. A bring and buy sale ensured that the sum of £1200 was raised for the National Fund.

Communities act in support of World Conference on Racism

FOLLOWING THE request of our National Spiritual Assembly that communities undertake events in connection with the UN World Conference Against Racism at the start of September, Londonderry undertook two projects.

One was an open prayer/devotional meeting in a city centre venue, with a programme that emphasised the need for unity and harmony; the other, linked to it, was issuing a statement prepared by the Londonderry Assembly which drew on material from the National Spiritual Assembly and the Bahá'í International Community to set out that same need, and the important role of religious leaders in helping society overcome its prejudices. The statement was also shared with the media, with contacts, and with local ethnic and other minority groups.

The Llansanffraid Glan Conwy community organised a devotional to coincide with the start of the conference in order to pray for its success. Fourteen people, four of whom were friends of the Bahá'ís, looked to the words of Bahá'u'lláh referring to the unity of mankind and prayed for the conference's success.

In Dunblane, prayers for peace were said at the home of Scott and Kathleen Murray as part of the community's plan to hold regular devotional meetings open to all. Grimsby plan reunion

Grimsby plan reunion

WERE YOU in 19 Beeson Street, Grimsby 15 years ago? If so we would love to hear from you as we are planning a reunion in Grimsby. Please phone or write at your earliest opportunity to: Mel and Inga Dean, 8 Aylesbury Gardens, Grimsby DN33 1SB Tel: 077715 11896

Sports Co-ordinator for the Spring School in England

THE REGIONAL SCHOOLS TASK FORCE of the Bahá'í Council for England is looking for a Sports Co-ordinator for the Spring School next year, March 29 – April 1.

We can offer a free place to someone who will enjoy organising sports and games for the children, junior youth and youth (and maybe a few adults as well).

Please contact us with details of any experience and qualifications you might have. The first qualification is enthusiasm!

Please phone 01386 - 443607

Prayer Vigil in Chester

FOLLOWING THE terrorist attacks in America, the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Chester wanted to offer a prayer meeting to the public. The friends decided to hold a Peace Vigil in the Ridván Garden created by Herbert Nield, a Bahá'í living in nearby Childer Thornton.

The local paper must have been intrigued, because this time they printed our press release! After the devastation of the cities in the USA, natural simplicity seems more appealing than ever. Part of the press release read: “This humble spot on the Wirral Way footpath is dedicated to paradise on earth. Herbert has turned a rough patch of meadowland into a special place with flowers and a stream.”

On Saturday, September 22, friends and guests arrived at dusk and set about illuminating the scene with candles and lanterns. (Special thanks to Becky and Jack Symes who did most of the pyrotechnics). By nightfall as around twentyfive souls huddled together, each holding a lighted candle, prayers and readings from the Bahá'í, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim faiths were offered and there was time for silent contemplation.

Afterwards people sipped on hot drinks and quietly chatted, glad that they had expressed their own hopes of peace for mankind.

