

Inter-Act

...Building understanding between faiths

Spring 2008

Welcome to the Spring 2008 Inter-Act Bulletin

Interfaith Action (or Inter-Act) is a not for profit organisation working regionally across London to build understanding between faiths, through dialogue and social action projects. Our projects focus on under 25 year olds, particularly with students at universities and colleges. The purpose of this Bulletin is to keep you informed of our progress, report our successes and tell you about upcoming events, activities and projects. I hope you enjoy...

The editorial team visit different places of worship in London

6 writers, 1 photographer and 3 graphic designers volunteered to create the Spring 2008 issue of *Interact* magazine.

Interact is an inter faith, culture and lifestyle magazine produced by and for 16-25 year olds. This free quarterly magazine reflects the diversity of faith and culture across London with regular features including arts, reviews, opinion, listings and much more.

As part of their project the team decided to visit and write about the Central Gurdwara, Southwark Cathedral and BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir. Due to limited availability they were unable to visit a Mosque, Synagogue or Buddhist Temple but the next team will continue the feature in the Summer 2008 issue, due out in June. The Summer group will also visit the V&A for a tour exploring their collection of 'Sacred' objects, from many faith traditions.

To request a copy of the Spring 2008 issue please e-mail magazine@interact-uk.org.uk



Editorial Team for Spring 2008 issue of *Interact* magazine

Peace and Unity at the University of Westminster

The University of Westminster Chaplaincy and Student Union successfully organised their 1st inter faith conversation in February, for students and staff during their Peace and Unity week. Facilitated by Kat (Project Manager at Inter-Act and Debbie (Education Officer at the 3 Faiths Forum), participants explored themes of peace from 6 faith perspectives.

Students at **Imperial College** have successfully set up an inter faith group following an introductory session with Inter-Act. The group are developing a mission statement and calendar of events for the next 12 months. We will be providing further workshops introducing them to dialogue techniques and discussing opportunities for social action.

If you would like to organise an inter faith event at your university please get in touch.

Can we help you organise an end of year inter faith social, at your university or college? Get in touch.

Events

April

Sunday 27th April 10-4pm
Volunteering at Adelaide Nature Reserve; We are looking for volunteers interested conservation, meeting new people and working as a team, to help with tasks including cutting back overgrowth; planting work in the meadow; clearing scrapes for ground burrowing insects; and maintenance work on steps and paths.

All welcome, please register by e-mail or phone.

May

Safe Garden Project Launch

18 volunteers will support elderly residents with gardening tasks, developing leadership and team working skills, sign up now by e-mail.

Would you like to be trained, and mentor a small group of 14-16 year olds on a social action project promoting inter faith dialogue and community cohesion? Why not get in touch and find out more...

We are currently developing a variety of new volunteer projects, for under 25 year olds beginning this Spring and Summer. There is something for everyone. There are limited places so get in touch as soon as possible.

Internships at Inter-Act

We are always looking for enthusiastic students and young people to intern in the office. If you're looking for experience in the not-for profit or inter faith sector why not get in touch and we'll try and match your existing skills and development needs with a project in our office.

We can be flexible about when you volunteer, but ideally you would volunteer with us for a minimum of 1 week full-time, or 1 day a week for 6 weeks.

Mentoring 2008/09

Our mentoring programme will train 10 university students to mentor and lead small teams of 14-16 year olds. The teams of 1 mentor and 3 mentees will work together over 12 weeks on a project, which might include designing and writing a section of *Interact* magazine; creating a campaign for their local youth group or community centre; developing a photography or art exhibition; or clearing a local community garden each fortnight.

During the project the mentors will meet on two occasions to share experiences and support one another with ideas.

We will be recruiting volunteers for this project from September 2008

Safe Garden Project

This project will provide student volunteers to help and support elderly residents maintain their garden with the aim of increasing community safety, by reducing risk of vandalism and burglary.

People who are elderly, living alone, or living with a long term illness can often find it difficult to maintain their gardens. The Metropolitan Police have identified that these groups of people are often targeted by criminals because they are easily identified through the appearance of their gardens.

This project aims to support this section of society by providing small teams of volunteers to support with gardening for a couple of hours each month.

If you are interested in being involved in this project please get in touch as soon as possible.

Beginning in May/June 2008

Media Professionals required...

Could you mentor a group of writers, supporting their written communication skills in a journalistic capacity? Inter-Act is looking for a professional journalist or writer who could mentor the next Editorial Team (starting in April). As a mentor you would be required to volunteer up to 5 hours, attending two team meetings with the volunteers, providing information and advice.



Interfaith Action Groups

These are groups of university students taking the next step from dialogue, out in to the community. Many universities have inter faith groups, forums or societies established; meeting regularly to develop deeper understanding and respect of each other through a variety of activities.

Inter-Act supports the development of these groups, and encourages them to engage side-by-side (social action) as well as face-to-face (dialogue).

If you or your inter faith group are interested in developing a social action or group volunteering project to expand your activities please get in touch immediately.



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