

PEOPLE FROM ALL FAITHS AND BACKGROUNDS GETTING INVOLVED IN CAMPAIGN TO BRING RESIDENTS TOGETHER

Let's hope Luton in Harmony sets the record straight on our town



ONE VOICE: The launch of the Luton in Harmony campaign

FOLLOWING the launch of the Luton in Harmony campaign last month, faith communities have pledged, together with the wider community, to work towards a more cohesive town. Despite the many challenges Luton faces, results of a 2008 survey revealed nearly three quarters of residents agree people from different backgrounds get on well together.

Luton in Harmony (LiH) aims to put the record straight in Luton, celebrate the positive relationships that exist between people of different backgrounds and from different life experiences, and unite local people in a celebration of all that is good about the town.

Places of worship are encouraged to support the campaign by sharing the Luton in Harmony message and, distributing the pledge card and badges. For general information about the campaign email sarah.allen@luton.gov.uk, and for information regarding faiths and the campaign, contact Ryad Khodabocus on info@lutonfaiths.org

On Monday, January 25, President of the Conference of the British Methodist Church, Rev David Gamble, and Rev Anne Brown, who chairs the Beds Essex and Herts Methodist District, visited Luton's Grassroots programme. The day was a rich learning about Grassroots works and its partner Luton Council of Faiths. After a warm welcome at the Luton Central Mosque, Rev Brown said the visit "surpassed expectations".

On Sunday, January 24, at the Luton and Dunstable Polish School, the Polish



Photo: Zuzia Briggs

POLISHED PERFORMANCE: The Luton & Dunstable Polish school nativity play

community held their nativity play, an opportunity for the children's families at the school to gather under one roof to talk, laugh and simply be with one another.

This is also the time when people share the 'oplatek' (wafer), especially with family and friends, and wish each other good fortune and happiness for the year to come.

The day ended with light refreshments and homemade cakes - a fun and joyous occasion for all.

Luton Central Library Children's department celebrated the launch of the Young Muslim writer award for under 16s, on Tuesday, January 26. The writing competition was launched by Luton's very own 2009 shortlisted nominee, 14-year-old Lea Manor pupil Tanzania Nasrin, 14. It's a double whammy for Luton as Shemiza Rashid, director and interfaith art consultant for the Creative Muslim Network of Luton and

teacher at Luton Sixth Form College, has been invited to a judge for the competition. For entry details visit www.muslimwritersawards.co.uk

Farley Hill Methodist Members attended the funeral at St John the Baptist Anglican Farley Hill of Mr. Toni Titmuss, a stalwart member of St John's, on Wednesday, January 13. To have been very active in the affairs of Farley Hill estate in particular the community centre, where she had many friends, and was a member of the parochial church council for many years.

FHM's covenant service, to be conducted by the Rev Julia Bradshaw, has been pushed back until Sunday, February 21, and Rev Jenny Spouge will conduct the service on Sunday, February 7. The February Lunch Club takes place on Wednesday, February 10, with a two course lunch and a cup of tea for £3.

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WARM WELCOME: Luton Central Mosque was the venue for the Grassroots day