

News from the borough's multi-faith communities
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CHARITY

Community comes together to celebrate act of giving to others

A group of volunteers gave up their Saturday to perform selfless deeds for Sewa Day.

More than three dozen residents aged eight to 82 took to South Park, Ilford, to plant trees, paint benches and pick up dropped litter.

Sewa co-ordinator Ravi Bhanot said the day is for people of all backgrounds to do something for other people.

"It is a day of selfless work in Hindu and Punjabi, but most religions believe in selfless work and it is part of human nature to help others," he told the *Recorder*.

"One of our objectives was to help with the environment and recycling."

Redbridge Mayor Cllr Gurdial Bhamra planted a tree, which the volunteers thought would be a fitting legacy for his term in office.

Ravi added: "We hope the day is a legacy for which people can aspire to. We hope to have more trees in the park and make it a more pleasant place."

Redbridge Sewa also helped

Sewa Day is always a highlight in Redbridge's faiths calendar and this year was no exception.

Ellena Cruse spoke to Ravi Bhanot about what volunteers got up to

saris so they could experience "Indian culture".

Diwali is the largest religious and cultural event for Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists, and the group not only dressed tourists at Trafalgar Square, but raised £500 for charity.

Ravi, who is also on the organising Diwali in London committee, said: "London is the capital of the world in many senses, we want everyone to experience the spiritual and cultural aspects of Diwali.



■ Mayor of Redbridge Cllr Gurdial Bhamra planted a tree as part of Redbridge's Sewa Day activities.

Picture: VICKIE FLORES

Garba Indian dance.

"We are very fortunate we live in Redbridge. we have a number of

meditation stall too."

Ravi said he is now looking forward to making the

CLUB

New hangout for young people

Young churchgoers in South Woodford can "Thank God it's Friday" at a new youth club.

The group meets from 6-7.30pm at Woodford Baptist Church, George Lane, and runs every week, except the third Friday of the month.

People can relax and make new friends in the church's newly-revamped cafe/hall, where milkshakes, hot chocolate and games will be on offer.

For more information, call 020 8530 4916.

CHARITY

Church to hold food collection

Worshippers in Ilford can help feed the hungry this winter.

The Redeemed Christian Church of God Embassy of Faith, Cranbrook Road, is asking its congregation to bring in food on October 30, which will be donated to Ilford Salvation Army and the