

Liverpool Hindu Temple***Fairtrade and gardening project***

Liverpool Hindu Cultural Organisation and the Shree Radha Krishna Temple, have worked closely with Faiths4Change over the past 2 years. They have been keen to improve the appearance of their temple grounds, as well as address the environmental impact of the temple on the environment.

Their environmental project started in August 2009, with a link with the Environment Agency, facilitated by Faiths4Change. Staff at the Environment Agency are given "environmental leave days" where they can spend time volunteering on an environmental project. They were particularly interested in helping out on a project with another faith or culture. The Hindu temple was in the process of planning a garden area, and welcomed the support of the environment agency, who also supplied tools and bedding plants.



Volunteers from the Environment Agency and Brothers of Charity outside the Temple.

The work day was supported by Brothers of Charity Services, who advised on and supplied plants suitable for brightening up the mainly concrete grounds surrounding the temple. Their woodwork team created raised beds which the Environment Agency planted up alongside residents and service users at Brothers of Charity. A close link has established between Brothers of charity and the Hindu temple, and we are delighted that two long term volunteer placements from Brothers of charity are established, so helping the Temple to maintain their garden area.



People of other faiths learning how to reuse left over food at the temple.

Alongside the garden project, an Asian women's group called Ankur, many of whom work and worship at the temple, wanted to explore using fair-trade fruit and nuts at their dance festival of Navratri. This festival lasts nine nights and much fruit is given in offerings as part of worship and consumed during the festivities. Ankur were able to use funding from Faiths4change to buy Fairtrade fruit such as bananas as well as locally sourced apples.

The temple is now addressing the waste which goes into landfill, and they hosted an evening on recycling for over 100 people, with speakers from Merseyside Waste Authority, Love Food Hate Waste and faiths4change. They are exploring using biodegradable plates and cups to replace the huge volume of plastic ones disposed of at key festivals throughout the year.

The Hindu temple project will shortly feature on our website with more footage and photos of their tree carving project. Keep an eye on www.faiths4change.org.uk

