

## **Beshara Trust Newsletter – Autumn 2015**

Welcome to the newsletter. I hope you find it interesting and that it reflects the work and events sponsored by the Trust in 2014-15.

The Trust has had a busy year of initiating, facilitating and collaborating events and meetings with the intention of expanding and supporting the good news that is Beshara. The year culminated in an open meeting and AGM in London, when Trustees and friends of the Trust came together to hear about the recent work of the Trust and discuss the implications of the recent changes at Chisholme. A full report of this meeting has been posted on the [Beshara Trust web pages](#), and reflects the diverse points of view that were expressed at the meeting and how important the continuing public presence of Beshara is to our friends and supporters.

One of the areas of development is how to present Beshara in the worldwide web and recognising the importance of rapid change in electronic communications. One of the Trustees, Daniel Hirtenstein and a small group of helpers will be looking at a new web representation of the Beshara Trust that will support the spirit and purpose of Beshara in the future. This could include the development of a new blog and other ideas still at the incubating stage.

During the last year over twenty seminars and events were held, largely in Bristol, Edinburgh and London, with the help of willing friends and supporters.

In Bristol the sessions included a series of seminars on “The Conference of the Birds”, led by Jane Clark and other seminars were led by Peter Yiangou, Aaron Cass, Michael Cohen and the well-known writer of Sufi stories, Muriel Maufroy. Numbers of participants have grown steadily thanks to the hard work put in by Sarah Malone, who has planned an interesting autumn programme including a two part film event “Looking for Muhyiddin” and a seminar on the metaphysics of sacred geometry.

In Edinburgh at the Salisbury centre, the programme included seminars, regular zikr and a monthly Rumi study. The Trust also supported a ”Discovering Unity” course run by the Beshara School and the annual Beshara Lecture, which was given this year by Nick Yiangou. An audio version of the lecture is available on the Trust web pages. A small group of friends have worked together to develop a varied programme of seminars and events, which will include in the Autumn of 2015 a collaborative talk forum with the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace on “What is a well-integrated spirituality?”

In London, the regular seminars have continued to be popular, with an Autumn and Winter programme of a course of four dates planned to study the new translation of the “The Secrets of Voyaging” – an important work by Ibn ‘Arabi. This course will be facilitated with guidance from Stephen Hirtenstein, to whom we are very grateful for his continuing support. These day courses are a response to the requests to deepen study in London and will include study, contemplation and conversation as well as lunch together. The annual Beshara Lecture was also given in London to a large audience on the theme

of the emergence of a new consciousness based on an understanding of an “integral perspective”.

London also hosted with the Ibn ‘Arabi society, a film and music event, celebrating the life and works of Muhyiddin ‘Ibn Arabi. This was a large collaborative event and thanks to Daniel Hirtenstein, Richard Twinch and Amir Hussain among others, the day introduced many more people to the gifts of this great teacher, Muhyiddin Ibn ‘Arabi, in a modern and contemplative yet personal way.

All this is dependent on the continuing generosity of our financial supporters and friends. We have benefited by some wonderful gifts. This year’s reserves showed a small decline and this requires further attention and care, if the Trust is to flower and spread new seeds. As demand grows, so does our financial requirements and if this can be shared among more, then the seeds can grow stronger each year. We have a new Donation form that can be accessed [online](#) and we would love to hear from you!

The Trust continues to look to find ways to expand its remit in bringing new programmes that introduce the expression of Beshara into the wider community, thanks to a small group of dedicated hardworking volunteers. This AGM we welcomed two new Trustees, John Markson Brown, who will be our new Treasurer, and Christina Finegan. We said farewell to Julia Dry and Jenny Martin, who supported the Trust so well with their skills and expertise over the last few years. New ideas are welcome and new ways of working with the Principal and Directors of the Chisholme Institute will be explored to identify areas where collaboration will be beneficial to all.

The Beshara Trust will continue, God Willing, to develop opportunities to collaborate with like-minded individuals and groups and actively promote the education and be in service to the movement of Union through love and knowledge, which is essential for our time and which touches each of us in a unique way, unfolding as a mercy in whichever way we request to be gifted.

We look forward to meeting old and new friends at our planned events and hearing your news this coming year.

Gill Williams  
Chair  
The Beshara Trust

---

6 Warden Lodge, Winchester Road, Bishop’s Waltham, Southampton SO32 INT UK [trust@beshara.org](mailto:trust@beshara.org)

**Trustees** Chair: Gill Williams (BA Hons), Elizabeth Roberts (MA Oxon, MPhil), Michael Cohen (BSc, PhD), Daniel Hirtenstein (MA Hons), Martin Lam, John Markson-Brown, Christina Finegan

The Beshara Trust is an educational charity. Registered nos. 296769 England & Wales, SC039933 Scotland.