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## Sewa Pioneers Award Winners 2013

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**On Wednesday 20th March 2013, volunteers and staff who worked on a major inter faith project, celebrated after receiving a major award in recognition of their efforts at the House of Commons.**



In October 2012, 50 volunteers from Buddhist, Hindu, Jain and Sikh communities teamed up with St Philip’s Centre to mark Sewa Day, an international special day of selfless service to important causes. The uniqueness of the project was evident as volunteers from Christian, Jewish and Muslim backgrounds also took part in the event.

The award recognised the inter faith partnership which focused on the environment, as the Fludes Lane area of Oadby in Leicestershire was spruced up by the clearing of shrubs and the planting of bulbs. Judges praised the project for “involving many faiths, the Council, the Mayor and people of all ages”. The ceremony was attended by Rupa Kanabar and Gurpreet Santini – both residents of Oadby and Revd Canon Dr John Hall and Riaz Ravat from St Philip’s Centre.

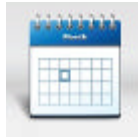
Rupa Kanabar, an Oadby resident and member of the Hindu community said, “Sewa Day has proved that by bringing all the communities together, we can really make the environment and our world a better place”.



Gurpreet Santini, a fellow Oadby resident and member of the Sikh community added, “We were absolutely overjoyed to receive this award and so pleased that our team’s hard work was recognised. I hope it will inspire others to get involved in this year’s Sewa Day in Leicester and Leicestershire. Small acts of selflessness by giving your time can make a big difference”.

The planning group members for Leicester Sewa Day are Bharti Acharya, Rupa Kanabar, Gurpreet Santini, Riaz Ravat and Kartar Singh Bring. The organisations who took part in the Leicester Sewa Day 2012 campaign included the East Midlands Buddhist Vihara, Leicestershire Sikh Alliance Oadby & Wigston Muslim Association, Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, Shree Sanatan Mandir and Shri Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji Gurdwara.

*Sewa Day invokes a spirit of community and selfless service for a just and fair society. On Sewa Day thousands of people across the world come together to perform Sewa and experience the joy of giving in its truest sense.*



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