



NMLCC:
moving
Hackney's
muslim
community
forward



**JOURNEY 2
SUCCESS:**
HCVS' training
programme



SAVE ESOL:
Hackney leads
the campaign

HCVS' magazine for Hackney's voluntary & community sector

SPARK



In this issue:

- ▶ summer festivals
- ▶ save ESOL campaign
- ▶ abolition 07
- ▶ community centres
- ▶ older people's dance
- ▶ hackney parks
- ▶ meet anne woollett
- ▶ governance
- ▶ plus the latest funding news

nightingale:
a community changing

Financial Solutions For Small Voluntary & Community Groups



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Emmanuel (Mobile 07838 166 503)

“Creating Solutions that Add Value”

NHSL is Committed to Customer First Framework



contents

4 > news from the sector
hva volunteer 10th annual achievement awards

5 > news from hcvs: youth futures
funding for peace week projects, keep it rolling

4 **6 > neighbourhood focus: nightingale**
turning the estate around

10 > news from the sector
kids n climate change, older people's reggae



12 > abolition 07
life in Ghana, post-traumatic slave syndrome

15 > news from hcvs: hackney refugee forum
£2k grants for community champions

16 > feature: hackney's parks
do we make the most of our green space?

10

20 > journey to success
meet our high achieving graduates

23 > news from hcvs
aset centre, summer lead training courses



25 > the big issue: save esol campaign
hackney driving the campaign forward

28 > doc
issue 6 - governance

16

30 > faith focus: muslim community
north london muslim community centre

32 > news from the sector
community centres: the debate rages on

34 > community empowerment network
new grants, new reps, new co-ordinator?

35 > funding and policy
latest news, funding directory

38 > who's who: anne woollett
hackney marsh user group

25

39 > news from the sector
new lgbt forum, blockorama, h-amps art show



Summer 2007



Summer's here, time to make the most of our free time and space. At HCVS, we have barely stopped to take breath. Thank you for your patience with all our news and events around commissioning. We continue to fight for the community sector and have worked hard to secure more small grants for your projects - take a look at pages 5, 15 and 34 to find out more.
Gillian

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Advertise in this space

Everyone is welcome to advertise in **SPARK** - Hackney's voluntary and community sector (VCS) magazine, circulated to over 1,900 organisations in the borough. To arrange space in **SPARK** is simple - just contact **Gillian** as above. HCVS members get discounts.

A big thank you to everyone who supplied articles and information for this issue.

Volunteer Excellence



Volunteering awards for Volunteer of the Year: **Naznum Khanam** and Older & Bolder: **Jean John**

Hackney Voluntary Action's 10th Annual Achievement Awards rewarded the 200 volunteers who offer their time and skills for free to ensure Hackney's voluntary and community sector (VCS) continues to make an impact and deliver key services.

Sponsored and hosted by UBS, the Investment Services firm, 110 people from Hackney council, the Metropolitan Police, VCS organisations, Hackney schools and colleges attended the ceremony. The Speaker of Hackney, Cllr. Faizullah Khan attended as Honourable Guest and showed his support for volunteering in Hackney and the good work HVA is doing for the community. Since 1996, over 40,000 people have contacted HVA about volunteering.

It was an emotional day for **Naznum Khanam** who picked up the **Volunteer of the Year** award. Miss Khanam, who volunteers with inshape Healthy Living Network, single-handedly trained volunteer support workers, conducted a customer satisfaction survey and got funding for a new community gardening project she is now helping to set up. inShape said:

"We have seen her blossom and bloom from a shy insecure person to a strong, assertive young lady. She was always capable but now she knows she is."

HVA introduced a new award category for 2007: **Young, Gifted and Volunteering** with two age groups: 12 - 16 and 17 - 25.

Cllr Karen Alcock, Hackney Cabinet Member, presented the awards. **Charley Watson**, who is 13 years old and volunteers with Shakespeare Adventure Playground took home the award for 12 - 16 while **Estelle Bevis-Murrain** bagged the 17 - 25 award.

Older and Bolder Award for volunteers aged 60 plus who show commitment and outstanding service: **Jean John, Wayside Community Centre**

Active Community Award for an organisation demonstrating excellence in committee support and a high level of committee commitment: **Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground Association**

Volunteer Programme of the Year award went to **SKY Partnership**

📞 **HVA** 📞: **020 7241 4443**

✉:

info@hackneyvoluntaryaction.org.uk



Young, Gifted and Volunteering
L-R: Charley and Estelle

New writer for SPARK

Some articles in this issue of SPARK were written by **IAN DAVIES**, a student at **University of East London**.

Here's a bit about Ian, and how he became interested in journalism.

As part of a module at university entitled 'working in the culture Industries' I was required to do 90 hours of work experience. As my ambition in life is to become a journalist I thought it would be a good idea to find experience in the field that I hope to make a career in. Therefore I got in contact with Liz Hughes, a writer for SPARK magazine who was willing to take me on. I did two weeks with Liz covering various stories. I found the experience fulfilling and enjoyable and I really felt like a professional freelance journalist.

I was born in Sierra Leone, West Africa and moved to England at the age of seven. From the age of about ten or eleven I have



Trevor Macdonald

dreamt of being a journalist, and admire Trevor MacDonald (right). Since moving to England I have excelled in my studies, from primary school through to university. At the moment I have just completed the second year of a major minor joint honours degree at the University of East London, with Journalism as my major. I hope to take the experience I have received from Liz and use it to further enhance my skills in the future. ■

📞 **Want some work experience? Get in touch**

✉: info@haggerstonpool.com

Youth Futures

Getting ready to take on 2012



Do you have the skills to volunteer at Olympics 2012? Josh and Dean from Hold it Down (HID), the young people's led events management company, have recruited 12 young people to gain these skills through the Pre-Volunteering Programme (PVP). PVP is based on job training and covers public safety awareness, equality and diversity, customer relations plus volunteering and the Olympics 2012.

Josh said: 'Being in one of the Olympics 2012 boroughs, we need to get skilled-up so we can be part of the 70,000 volunteers needed, and more importantly get one of the thousands of jobs which will be created from East

Keep it Rolling
Tuesday, 10 and 17 July
4pm – 7pm

The Ocean, 270 Mare Street, E8 1HE
 As a part of the annual Spice festival Hold it Down is staging the roller disco of the year! For under 19s, with prizes for the best dressed, old school, wickedest skater - judged by a celebrity guests!

If you think you can can skate don't miss out.

Ticket only event: £5 includes your skate hire and a juice
Call Dean: 07904 640 000 or
Josh: 07904 630 000

London's regeneration.'

HID teamed up with Lifeline to hold the PVP course as part of a larger London-wide programme on behalf of the London Development Agency. PVP is for 16 – 20 years olds who aren't in education, work or training and interested in volunteering at the Olympics 2012. All 12 are looking forward to graduating at the Wembley Arena and getting a job or more volunteering work.

Voices of young people on the course:

Why are you doing PVP?

"To gain some experience and to learn stuff I have not learnt before an' add stuff on CV."

"To make my CV look better and make some money!"

How's it going?

"Everything's going good, just trying to keep up with the course."

What do you want from PVP?

"Skills, qualifications and a position in one of the fields we trained – youth work, voluntary work."

Josh Folkes and Dean Wallace, HID "To talk to the youth, you need the youth"
 ☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: josh@hcvs.org.uk
 or
 dean@hcvs.org.uk ■

One Love Hackney: A Week of Civic Pride

9 - 15 September 2007



It's that time of year again and HCVS are busy organising Peace Week 2007. After the huge success of Peace Week 2006 which focused on youth involvement with guns and gangs, and culminated with the festival in Shoreditch Park (pictured above), this year's festival promises to be bigger and better.

Up to £3,500 for community groups to hold Peace Week activities

Dave Ramdial, Business Manager, HCVS: "The focus of this year's event is one of Civic Pride – with particular emphasis on the talented young people of the borough. We want to bring together all of Hackney's diverse communities.

We are offering all Hackney based community groups the opportunity of applying for a grant (maximum £3,500) to hold activities throughout the week and get involved in the week's activities and the main festival at Clissold Park on 15 September." You can apply to our grants programme from **13 July 07** and it will close on **25 July 07**. Grant applicants will be notified of successful bids by **9 August 07**.

Contact Dave Ramdial:
 ☎: 020 7923 1962 ■

Welcome to Nightingale estate, once one of the most notorious estates in Hackney, slap bang in the middle of 'Murder Mile'. Regeneration over the last decade has seen the isolating tower blocks replaced by new low rises and Nightingale is fighting back, SPARK spoke to the estate's voluntary and community groups about the battle to keep the spirit of Nightingale alive.



Photography E Fotaki

MDMD Arts and Code 7 CD production project

the nightingale sings...



John Bailey (above) of Making, Drama, Music and Dance Arts (MDMDA)

We have 80 to 90 regular users – young people from the estate and surrounding area. With the help of HCVS, we received a Connecting Communities grant to buy pieces of equipment and then added our own stuff. We run studio sessions, nearly every day, with a couple of recording days a week. There's instrument tuition (vocals, piano and keyboards, bass, guitar, drums and percussion) as well as street and cultural dance, and football.

We've been here since Nightingale estate had a reputation and everyone was a

bit scared. We ran the event at the blow down of the blocks – with a stage show and football competition – the young people really got involved.

Since we've been here and taken some of attention off the street, things have cooled down. I think we've played a significant part.

We are on the list of troubled areas that need attention. But really it's about preventing it, keeping everyone happy in the structure of life and active in stuff that helps in the long run.

We're working with young people who are not quite confident in



MDMD Arts footie team

themselves, who might have a disability or family problem – some are referred by family support workers. We can help to strengthen their confidence in an environment where there are a lot of people – they learn to talk and plan and get on with things. With many young people we see a massive change.

We're ambitious to become a Motown – we have the talent here, a good footing in the industry, and the knowledge and skills to go forward and create and promote our own albums. The tutors are veterans, they've toured, done Top of the Pops and played with people like Aswad and Maxi Priest.

This building is due to come down in 12 – 18 months time. We're on the committee for the new community hall – to work out what activities will be going on and how they'll fit in. >>

We're ambitious to become a Motown – we have the talent here, a good footing in the industry, and the knowledge and skills to go forward and create and promote our own albums.

John Bailey

It's a dilemma – I think what we are doing is the tip of the iceberg, but we're locked in a battle for short term survival.

Give me a million and let me show you what I can do!

Lol Gellor

It's not subsidised, we have 25 volunteers... One woman helped us for a year, and then decided to study nutrition. She told us that our stall changed her life.

Anna Stankevich

I want to apply this to all the estates in London, then Newcastle, Glasgow...

They all stink, they're all polluted with rats – I want that changed – if it can work on Nightingale it can work in any place.

Cam Matheson



Lol Gellor (above) of Sound Vision Trust - Home to Sound Radio, licensed by Ofcom for community radio

We have some profoundly important programmes. The "Voices of Kidnapped" which used to broadcast with stations in Latin America spoke to the kidnappers, the kidnapped and the families of the kidnapped. In some cases people were released.

We were the first legal voice of the Kurdish community – and often we are the only legal voice of a community.

We have two Chinese programmes - one group are dissidents, the other London based Chinese young people. And I remember a Jewish programme



Lol gives some sound advice

Photography E Fotaki

where there was a discussion between Sheikh Omar Bakri and Rabbi Jonathan Sacks.

We are the jewel in the diversity crown: we give people an opportunity to look at things from a completely different perspective. We try to do this with humour and an acknowledgement of the realities of human life.

Here in the middle of 'murder mile', on what was once a notorious housing estate in an old mini mart, we're terribly

under-resourced. But we're running one of the most diverse projects on the planet - Orthodox Jews, Muslims, Christians, Africans, Latin Americans, Brazilians, Chinese, all taking part in an enterprise under one roof.

When you are under-resourced you can't do the work needed to get the money in, even if a lot of people recognise it's wonderful. I'm campaigning to attach value to what we do, I've had conversations with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Lord Putnam, but then I'm back here cleaning gutters on the roof.

Being on the Nightingale estate on one level is not important at all - our transmitter is in Bow and we cover all East London. But in another way it's very important because of the relationships and

the impact on the community. We're something that's open all the time, we're a surrogate youth club.

But I feel I'm the only one who realises it's a community

development project, everyone else thinks it's a radio station.

Increasingly we need to re-invent and restructure. It's a dilemma – I think what we are doing is the tip of the iceberg, but we're locked in a battle for short term survival. I don't want to sound like a martyr, but I wouldn't wish what I have to do on my worst enemy; no holidays and the bills are a nightmare – all in the context of making the world a better place. Give me a million and let me show you what I can do! >>

Roots of Nightingale estate



1972: Nightingale Towers

The Greater London Councils (GLC) built the Nightingale estate, replacing roads leading north from Hackney Downs with towers of up to 21 storeys, between 1967 and 1972.

Local resident Sean O'Neill said: "I remember 1964 when this was all little houses back to back – it was a lot more friendly when everybody knew everybody. In 1968 I worked on the tower blocks, concreting. I swore when they were being built that I wouldn't move in one, but then of course, I did".



80s / 90s: Explosive era

The estate gained a reputation for drugs and violence, until four of the five blocks were blown down between 1998 and 2003, leading the New Statesman to title an article: "An explosive end of an era on the Hackney estate where even punks didn't want to live".

📺: Watch the blocks come down: www.hackney.gov.uk/index.htm/w-information-centre/hackney-the-place/xp-factsandfigures-history/towerblocks.htm



Photography E Fotaki

Fresh fruit and veg on your doorstep East London Food Access



Anna Stankevica (above) of East London Food Access (ELFA)

East London Food Access runs a food stalls under the awnings of Sound Radio in Olympus Square on Nightingale Estate – every Wednesday from 9 to 12.30. We also run stalls on Hackney Wick, Haggerston and Pembury estates.

We supply fresh fruit and vegetables every morning from Spitalfields market. Our supplier also supplies the best restaurants in the city – so we're choosing the best quality – it's more important than price.

On Nightingale estate, we have about 50 customers per morning – up to a maximum of 90 in summer. It's important for old people especially that we are here 52 weeks a year.

It's not

subsidised, we have 25 volunteers - there's nothing financial in it for them - just a discount on the food. One woman helped us for a year, and then decided to study nutrition. She told us that our stall changed her life. Another volunteer who started recently had never worked since she married 20 years ago, though she wanted to. We provide training: hygiene, selling skills, how to run a stall and communication.

As well as providing health food on estates and promoting healthy eating, we'd like this to be an opportunity for other stalls to join us so it becomes a community market. Also we know a lot of carers come to buy food – it would be good to start doing home deliveries.

Sean O'Neill, volunteer added: "The food co-op is the best thing we've had. The food's fresh and

lasts a lot longer than you get from the supermarket. It's convenient – and you get a real cross section of the community – everyone says hello and has a smile." >>

Photography S Khan



Nightingale alternative health



Cam Matheson (above) of East London Community Recycling Project

If you walk onto a normal city estate in summer – after dawn or at sunset – it’s polluted by rats and foxes. If you’re close to wheelie bins in summer they stink, and if you keep the window open, there will be flies from the maggots.



Photography S Khan

We’ve managed to do what private companies have not begun to tackle. We’re a small not for profit organisation and we’ve got a licence to recycle animal by-products – the first in the UK. We’re recycling a few hundred tons of food waste and a few thousand tons of dry waste. We are based in Hackney but we have recycling plant in surrounding boroughs. We’ve got the odd site in Hackney dotted on estates like the Gasgoigne where the plant handles food waste from 1000 households. I used to be a

Councillor here – so I know Nightingale estate. Fifteen years ago people were trying to get out, now it’s improved no end. There are no shootings on a regular basis, no guns. A lot of the improvement is down to the TRA - we wouldn’t exist without them.

My role is flag-waver – I say “keep going we’ll get there”. Self help organisations are often led by dominant personalities – I think I’ve been successful because I understand what I don’t know, so I find people who fill the gaps in my knowledge.

We presently employ 32 full time people, so we’re a big employers in Hackney. Four people were head hunted, all the rest

came from the unemployment register. The way we solve problems is to keep it local – our employees come from local estates, and we only go onto an estate to do recycling when we’re asked, when there’s unanimous agreement from Tenants and Residents Associations.

I want to move to 20,000 tons of food waste. I want to apply this to all the estates in London, then Newcastle, Glasgow... They all stink, they’re all polluted with rats – I want that changed – if it can work on Nightingale it can work in

Roots of Nightingale estate



2007: Olympus Square

The remaining block, Seaton House, has been refurbished, and surrounded by low rise redevelopments by several housing associations. Consultation is going on about the last phase of re-development, which will include Olympus Square and a new community centre.

Where is Nightingale estate?



More information:

East London Community Recycling Project

6 Muir Road, London, E5 8PG

☎: 020 8986 5608

✉: sonia@elcrp-recycling.com

🌐: www.elcrp-recycling.com

Making Drama Music Dance and Arts

9, Olympus Square, London E5 8PL

☎: 020 8533 7268

✉: nardobuk@yahoo.co.uk

East London Food Access

Unit 7, The Print House, 18 Ashwin Road, London E8 3DL

☎: 020 7254 1829

✉: anna@elfaweb.org.uk / 🌐: www.elfaweb.org.uk

Sound Radio - 1503 AM/MW

15 Olympus Square, London E5 8PL

✉: enquiry@soundradio.org.uk

🌐: www.soundradio.org.uk

Children's News

Our streets too - Playday 07

On Wednesday, 1 August, around 100,000 children and young people across the country will be enjoying activities from street games to junk modelling, and from building dens to bike acrobatics, as part of this year's Playday, the annual celebration of children's play.

The theme for 2007 – Our Streets too! – highlights that play is an integral part of children's lives in the streets around the home, but modern society is rapidly eroding play opportunities for children in these areas.

Look out for the joint Hackney and Tower Hamlets Playday in Victoria Park 12pm to 4pm with a procession launching the event at 11am from Hackney Town Hall to the Park. Activities on offer will include an Urban street zone with street games, an entertainments stage and a feast of creative fun.



Workshops include toy and musical instrument making from junk waste, drumming, dance, face painting and henna artistry and more. Returning by popular demand are last year's favourites: the climbing wall, water slide and eco camp and of course bouncy castles.

Clare Lennard

☎: 020 7254 9944

🌐: www.playday.org.uk

Hackney & Tower Hamlets Playday, 1 August 12 - 4pm



Ahead of their time

L-R: Sintayeh, Yishak, Matthew, Waleid and Walla

Climate change - hot topic for kids

Children at Agroforep's Saturday School are raising awareness of climate change issues. The cast of eight: Sintayeh Gessesse, Matthew Gile, Wala Hassan, Waleed Hassan, Waiel Hassan, Senafikish Gessesse, Thedeniya Nigussie & Ihlam performed a short play about an alien who lands on Earth to give one last warning about the way we look after our planet. The play was part of a series of short dramas which also covered bullying and cultural songs.

Dr Bekele Gessesse, Agroforep

☎: 0207 923 4449

✉: bekele@agroforep3.freemove.co.uk ■

Get your voice heard!

If you are a part of a voluntary and community sector (VCS) group working with children, young people and their parents - why not join the children and young people's providers (CYPP) forum?

The Forum actively involves organisations and agencies working with children, young people and parents in the decisions and planning of the services they receive to get a better deal for them.

Over 100 VCS organisations are already members including six representatives who sit on Team Hackney's Children & Young People's Partnership which help

to shape how services and priorities are developed to support our children and Young people. The representatives are **Jake Ferguson, HCVS, Sheila Ramdular, Hackney Family Backup, Catriona Scott, Family Welfare Association, Melanie Danan, Interlink and Algin Saydar, Derman.**



Jake Ferguson HCVS

Jake Ferguson (left) said: 'Networks such as this, mean we can work together to influence how local communities can play a stronger role in delivering services for local children and young people. I give it my full commitment'.

To join the CYPP Forum contact Health and Social Care Forum Co-ordinator based at HCVS. ☎: 020 7923 8361 ✉: hscf@yahoo.co.uk ■

Support for grieving parents

A local support group has been set up to help parents cope with the devastating loss of a baby.

North East London Sands meets monthly to give bereaved parents the chance to share their experiences and get support from others in the same situation. Meetings take place at the church rooms, St Mary's Church, Stoke Newington from 8-10pm on the first Friday of every month. The group has no religious affiliation and welcomes everyone, whatever their beliefs.

Mums Joy Beishon, Emma Lundie and Katie Matthews set up the group to support local families. Previously parents had to travel as far as west London to get help.

"Bereaved parents often find support like this invaluable. One mum told me recently that just being with people who'd all been through the same thing was so comforting," said Joy Beishon.

📍 North East London Sands (part of the UK Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society)

☎: 07948 272486

✉:

nelondonsands@hotmail.co.uk



Bereavement support

L-R: Joy Beishon, Emma Lundie and Katie Matthews

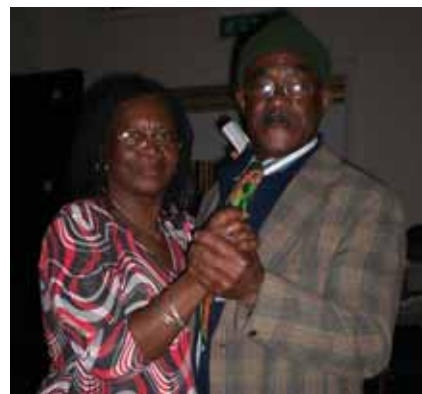
Older People's news

Shake your stuff at our over 50s reggae group



The Over 50s Dancing Social Group was formed three years ago, it was funded by Hackney council and based at Ocean. They provide social dancing with a mixture of reggae, soca and other music from three DJs.

Since Ocean closed, the group has moved several times and have been at their current location since December and are now funded by HCVS and the Community Empowerment



Network. The continuous moving has caused a loss of members, and funds are no longer available for transport and star performances from singers and dancers. While the council had to cease the funding they are still involved in promoting and advertising of the group.

The members are a diverse community of mainly West Indian nations, with 45 – 50 lively dancers on an average night. The

Treasurer, Mabelyn Dick, says it gives the opportunity to "leave the house, communicate with others, and make friends whilst exercising to remain active and healthy. We would have more members if people knew they could get home safely". Marvin

Skinner, the Chair said "I look forward to it, getting out of the house to meet friendly people. Everything about it is good".

The aim for the group is to continue going whilst attracting

more nationalities and broadening the range of activities to include singing and acting.

**📍 Mabelyn Dick
Over 50s Dancing Social Group
St Pauls Church
Stoke Newington Road
London, N16 7UE**

Alternate Tuesdays 6–10.30pm

Article by Ian Davies - see page 4 for more about Ian. ■



**Ngozi
Headley-
Fulani MA
Dakrobi Arts**

My name is Ngozi Headley-Fulani and I am involved in a number of projects for the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. For SPARK, I will be looking at related topics and inviting readers to share their views. In this issue, we hear from Dr. Sandra Richards, the Chief Executive of Education Africa Teaching (EAT) on Post Traumatic Slavery Syndrome. Dr. Richards suggests that rather than 'post trauma' we are still 'enduring' the consequence of enslavement.

I have just returned from a preliminary visit to Ghana where I was part of a team planning the itinerary for the Education Africa Teaching (EAT) visit in July 07. In one week we managed to meet several ministers, actors and other prominent people who were supportive of our efforts to bring young people from London to Ghana to learn about the history and culture. The visit is to coincide with Britain's commemoration of Abolition 07, EAT reaching its fifth anniversary and Ghana's 50th year of independence. EAT and its youth participants have officially been invited to take part in the Emancipation Day events. Read more about my visit on the right.

We will have more to tell in the next commemorative SPARK. I want to hear your views, contact me through gillian@hcv.org.uk
Ngozi ■

I Ghana - returning home

Contrary to some beliefs, Africa is not some kind of 'jungle' or swamp with people living in mud huts. Indeed, on my recent visit to Ghana, our accommodation was so superb that I feel the need to gloat a bit - so please indulge me.

It is called Diplomat Beach Resort and it is set on the Cocoa Beach sea front. It is heaven on earth. The self contained apartments each have three bedrooms, a kitchen and a sitting room/dining room with flat screen television as big as you can imagine. The owner, Simon Kofi, a young London born man of Ghanaian heritage has sponsored 80% of the hotel rate in support of the Education Africa Teaching (EAT) initiative and as a gesture of "support for the youth".

EAT do have one message for the ministers in Ghana. Often when we visit places of historical significance, there is a price for Ghanaians and another for 'visitors', especially in Elmina and Cape Coast Castle (slave castles). I feel that we should not have to pay the same entrance price as the 'visitors' who put us in the predicament in the first place. I therefore suggest an intermediate price



**EAT volunteers Ngozi & Karlene
in Ghana beside Kwame
Nkrumah's statue**

somewhere between the price for Ghanaians and visitors. This would go a long way to recognise those of us who are returning home. *Ngozi*

**📍 EAT young participants
leave on July 26 to represent
the UK at Emancipation Day
in Ghana.**

✉: DancemasterGozi@aol.com ■

Where is Ghana?



📍 Bicentenary: Abolition of Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade 1807 - 2007

📍: **black information link**

www.blink.org.uk

📍: **anti-slavery campaign**

www.antislavery.org

📍: **BBC**

[www.bbc.co.uk/history/
british/abolition/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/abolition/)

Awards for All programme:

£300 and £10,000 for all types of projects that commemorate the Bicentenary.

Check out the website:

📍: www.abolition200.org.uk

Rites of Passage Retreats



The Healing Foundation – Mpenzi is a social education organisation providing a range of vital services

including African-centred Rites of Passage programmes.

Rites of Passage allow for recognition by peers and community of the milestones or transitions in a person's life. Working closely with - Elder Emily Diane Gunter and Elder Cary Graham - you will develop a Spiritual Code of Ethics, map Sacred Geometry, enhance your abilities in Conflict Resolution, Spherical Holy Breath and Leadership in within your own life PLUS much more.

Two Elders Certification Retreats (Women and Men):

29 November - 2 December, 2007

Youth Females:

Friday 7 - 9 December, 2007

Youth Males:

Friday 7 - 9 December, 2007

Community Celebration, 9 December, 2007

📍 Introductory seminars will take place monthly from now in London, Cardiff, Manchester and Birmingham.

Tuition:

Elders £325 Youth £195

✉: info@mpenzi.org

🌐: www.mpenzi.org

☎: 020 8925 4807

📞: 07939 139 435

Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome



Dr. Sandra Richards, Chief Executive Education Africa Teaching (EAT)

Is it reasonable to believe that millions went through the trauma of slavery with no long lasting impact? Of course not. We have all heard of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) but we may not all have heard about Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome. This is a legacy that is spiritual, psychological, social, economical and it affects everything.

Insensitivity and

misunderstanding: For instance, Remembrance Day ceremony - ritualistic worshipping and acknowledgement of their Ancestors and a time that should not be forgotten. But we are also bereaved - African descendants are not expected to want to do the same thing. So we are slapped repeatedly and publicly.

Language: The reluctance to speak out, in case there is a misunderstanding and punishment.

School injustice: Exclusion is a huge legacy that is seldom spoken about in the same sentence as colonialism. Teachers deteriorate into an emotional mess at the hint of racism. The emotional meltdown is expressed in one of three ways. Tears, anger or irritation or apologetic to the point of paralysis. All signs of unresolved issues.

Also there is discrimination and abuse of power, criminalisation,

culturally insensitive care homes for our elders and newly arrived social care workers who do not understand the impact of colonialisation. The worst impact is AMNESIA.

What has happened so far is not working so we need alternatives.

A policy of inclusion is

critical: Include people who feel it as well as politicians, policy makers, parents, practitioners, police etc. Inform government, service users and each other. Become a beacon for best practice.

A holistic education

programme: Where young people are encouraged to study, study, study. Teachers have to raise their cultural competence and expectations of our children. Our children should be encouraged to excel.

Remember to remember:

Remind civil servants, parents and policy makers. Introduce a regular African Remembrance programme.

This requires resistance:

To falling into age old ineffective methods, to the cynical snipes and the emergence of racism from the most unsuspecting people and places. Resistance to bickering among yourselves and forgetting the bigger picture and the role you play in it.

“Until the lion tells the tale, the hunter will always be glorified.”

Let us remember 9/11, people rushed to the scene from across the world. Yet, when hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans we learned that no-one is coming to get us. In the words of our ancestor Robert Nesta Marley, We must emancipate ourselves from mental slavery. SR ■



**EDUCATION
INFORMATION
PROMOTION
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LOUD MINORITY is a video production company based in Hackney. We specialise in working with statutory, voluntary and community groups to address **social issues**.

www.loudminority.co.uk



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Hackney Refugee Forum



Ali Aksoy, (left)
Chair of
Hackney Refugee
Forum updates
SPARK with news
for refugee
communities.

In May, we held our second **Annual General Meeting (ABGM)** t HCVS. Fifty-five people joined us from The Prince's Trust, 27 refugee groups, service providers and doctors from The Sanctuary.

Thanks to HCVS - our income has gone up 400% compared with last year. We have also started our training course to teach refugees the skills to be **Fundraising Advisors**.

Dr Bekele Gessesse, Agroforep, chaired our AGM. He applauded our success: our partnership approach to winning funding for refugee groups and highlighted the need to fight for more resources, in particular a Hackney Refugee Centre.

Our **Educators Forum for Turkish-speaking Teachers** recently held their first Annual General Meeting (AGM). More than seventy educators meet to work on the Local Area Agreement target to increase the number of Turkish / Kurdish and Cypriot children passing their GCSEs.

Finally, thanks to everyone who supported our **Access to Information day** on 23 June. Host, Zarah Mohoboob of HCVS, introduced speakers Lynne Gillett and Lauren Tobias from Hackney council's Olympic and Paralympic Games Unit and Sarah Addiman from North East and North

Live your dreams in Hackney

Are you from a refugee community and have a great idea for a project that would allow you to fulfil your dreams but no money to do it? Look no further, Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF) are **offering grants of up to £2,000 to people from refugee communities** who want to do just that.

HRF Chair, Ali Aksoy (left) secured the money from The Scarman Trust's Community Champions awards scheme, which funds people who want to make a difference to their community. Ali completed Scarman's specialist marketing

Up to £2,000 for people from refugee communities

and funding assessment training and now has the skills to manage the pot of funding.

Ali said: 'We've all worked really hard to share this opportunity with Hackney's refugee communities. What makes this funding so special is that once the grant has been spent, Scarman have promised to offer advice and possibly further financial support to continue the project.'

So, what are you waiting for? Maybe you have a passion for salsa or have an eye for the arts – Hackney Refugee Forum can help make that dream a reality.

Apply before 9 July, contact Ali below. ■

Central London Health Protection Team. All three joined Diana Chituku of Hackney African Forum (pictured below) to answer questions on training, employment and health issues in relation to the Games.

Afterwards, we had entertainment from local musicians and dance groups including Anatolia, Busoga and Sussuku Dancers.

Hackney Refugee Forum and the Educators Forum, contact Ali ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉:hackneyrefugeeforum@hotmail.co.uk ■



Access to Information
Diana Chituku, chairs the panel



The crowd welcome Day-mer

Day-mer comes of age

Day-Mer, Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre launched their 18th Culture and Arts festival last month. Opening the festival were Ahmet Sezgin, Chair - Day-Mer Management Committee, Cllr Feryal Demirci, Brownswood - one of the first Kurdish female councillors, Jeanette Arnold, Greater London Authority Assembly Member, Cllr Mischa Borris, Clissold and Cllr Carolyn Baker - Harringay. Day-Mer's multi-cultural festival has grown since 1989, celebrating Turkish and Kurdish life in Hackney and encouraging all communities to come together. **Day-Mer** ☎: 020 7275 8440 ✉: info@daymer.org ■

Get out there and enjoy yourself!



Haggerston Park

Photography S Khan



Springfield Park

Photography A Woollett



Stokefest at Clissold Park

Photography L & K Warpole

Summer's here, time to get out and enjoy Hackney's green spaces. SPARK takes a look at three of Hackney's parks by talking to the people who work hard so we can all enjoy them.



Gill Jackson
(left) Support Worker for Hackney Parks Forum

The parks forum is where Park User Groups come together. We're the consultative body on parks and green spaces for Hackney along with the Hackney Environment Forum. The council attend our bi-monthly meetings with all the park user groups.

The aim is to retain, develop and promote parks and green spaces for the benefit of the whole community, which sometimes means we've got to challenge council decisions.

Some park user groups are born out of adversity – like in Springfield Park where the children's playground closed and

members of the public decided enough was enough. They've been successful – but children have grown up without a playground.

In contrast, Clissold Park User Group has worked tirelessly to get the house restored, and they've worked in partnership with the council.

A strong community user group can more or less influence what happens in the park for everyone's benefit

Gill Jackson

Haggerston Park is worrying as the Learning Trust, which is an unaccountable body, has got a foothold in several projects in that park. There's a two storey children's centre there, which people didn't really know was going to be built.

Then there are temporary



Haggerston Park

Photography S Khan

classrooms, games area, changing rooms and a car park for the new Bridge Academy. Generally we're concerned whether it's going to lose the peace and quiet that people seek in a park.

We're lucky in Hackney that we've got more than 60 identifiable green spaces, but we must ensure they stay. Whether as formal sports grounds, informal play areas or tranquil and relaxed places to take a book and read.

A strong community user group can more or less influence what happens in the park for everyone's benefit – as well as physically participating in developing the space. We've got a lot of experts on green issues who help with education in biodiversity and conservation - necessary to ensure we maintain our heritage.

My job as support worker is also to develop new user groups, so if there's a green space near - which you think would benefit from a user group and want support in setting one up, that's also what I'm interested in doing.



Ken Worpole, (left) of Clissold Park User Group

We've lived near the park for 40 years, and been active in the park user group for 10 to 15 years.

Clissold has always been a quite successful park – it has a dense catchment area of many different social and ethnic groups. As well as the wards with the highest population of under fives in Britain. It's always packed at weekends. I think it has greatly improved in last six or seven years.

Some say Clissold is privileged. It does have a strong middle class community around who are quite vocal. But then it's beautifully designed, middle sized with a beautiful tree stock and historic house – all ingredients which make it difficult to mess up. We've been working on the lottery bid with other voluntary groups in the area for 10 years.

It's been withdrawn at least twice, so everyone's pleased that in the end it's a good bid and we've been awarded £4.8 million over 10 years and the council are spending another £3 million.

I've studied parks around the country – to be successful they need a good social and age mix around. So you can fill the park with different types of different

Some people want to play football in winter, others to sunbathe in summer, read a book, walk dogs or smoke a spliff at dusk. And lots of people want to take children to the playground.

Ken Worpole

types of activity at different times of the day, weekend, or season. Some people want to play football in winter, others to sunbathe in summer, read a book, walk dogs or smoke a spliff at dusk. And lots of people want to take children to the playground.



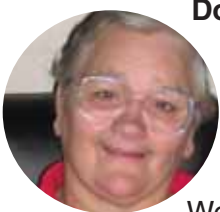
Photography L & K Worpole

Clissold Park

Parks are also places of conflict – some people with young children don't like dogs, other people don't like loud music on hot summer day or fast cyclists. In general people resolve conflicts; there are very few serious incidents.

This is a successful park already; it's a case of consolidating the best and most successful elements.

In the future there may be different populations who want to use the park. For example in recent years we've been fitting into the health agenda – first with joggers and now with walking groups for fitness. We also need to plan for climate change with different sorts of trees and flowers, and by naturalising the



Doreen Bullock (left) of Chair of Haggerston Park User Group

We've just come back from walking around the park with the judges for green flag award, and been very pleasantly surprised with the progress that's been made – it's flourishing. The repairs depot has now been flattened for MUGA (multi use games area) which will be ready from 1 September.

There's been some misinformation which has caused confusion and

misunderstandings, but in the last six months we've thrashed it out. We're concerned to see that the progress should continue into next year.

We've just come back from walking around the park with the judges for green flag award, and been very pleasantly surprised with the progress

Doreen Bullock

The Park user group want to ensure that the partnership relationship with the council continues, and that we set in

place objectives and commit ourselves to achieving them.

We'd also like to involve the farm more in the park – if it weren't for them, we wouldn't exist. The next thing we'll be doing is looking at options on the existing BMX track.



Photography S Khan

Haggerston Park



two lakes and the old river.

Glyn Rhys (left) of Springfield Park

User Group

Finally it's been recognised it's inexcusable that so much was shut down in Springfield Park. The playground, the café, the 1 o'clock club, the conservatory – and on the sports ground, the pavilion burnt down and the tennis courts are derelict.

Our user group re-started after the loss of the playground which local mothers, in particular, are furious about. Sixty or seventy people came to a meeting at the town hall.

The café re-opened three years ago, now there is £1 million from Team Hackney to do the upstairs of the house, the stable block and the conservatory. And there's a commitment that the playground is coming back, though first they have to re-house the school that they put there.

The council had an offer from Sport England of £3.5 million to develop the rowing club and the sports ground. They didn't consult properly with

stakeholders and it went on for years until last month, when Sport England withdrew the offer.

So, we've had a rollercoaster of closures and issues that somewhere like Clissold Park doesn't have. The easy explanation is that Clissold is

in a more middle class area with a stronger political influence.

Hopefully we've turned the corner. Now

we want to continue representing park users as best we can and encourage more people to use the park, particularly on the surrounding estates. We want to get the 1 o'clock club back and have a toddler playground as

well as the one being replaced. And I am concerned that this is a Local Nature Reserve with hills, springs and plants unique in Hackney which need management that the council are not geared up for.

I want to do my best for Springfield Park, but I wouldn't feel happy if we hadn't done something for places like Hackney Marshes where Arena Fields, White Hart Field and half of East Marsh are



Springfield Park

Photography A Woollett

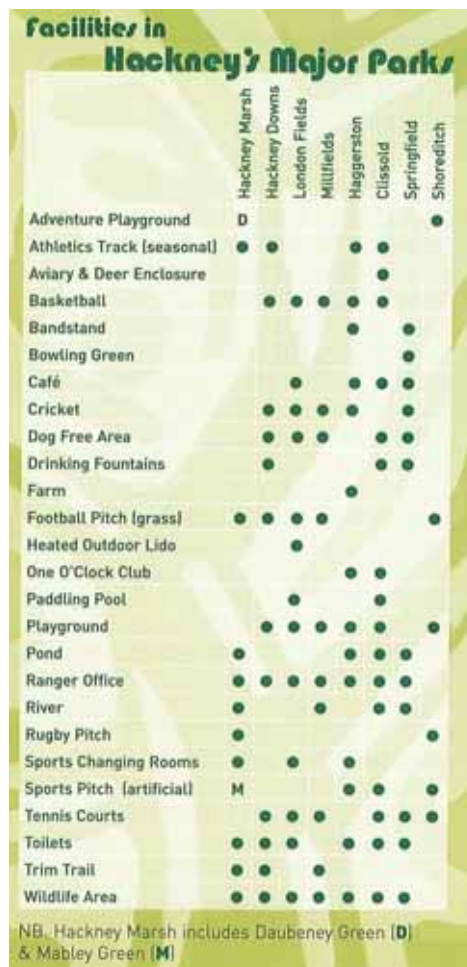
Our user group re-started after the loss of the playground which local mothers, in particular, are furious about.

Glyn Rhys



Springfield Park

Photography A Woollett



More information:

Almost all Hackney's parks and green spaces have a User Group. They provide a useful link between the community and the Council Officers responsible for parks. All are members of Hackney Parks Forum, which meets bimonthly to share information and discuss current issues.

Hackney Parks Forum

☎ : 020 7502 2306
 ✉ : hackneyparks@blueyonder.co.uk

Clissold Park User group

✉ : clissoldpug@yahoogroups.co.uk
 🌐 : www.clissoldpark.com

Haggerston Park User Group

🌐 : www.haggerstonpark.org.uk

Springfield Park User Group

✉ : spugcommittee@hotmail.co.uk

Summer Diary

Here's a list of fun things to do for summer. Thanks to everyone who sent in news we had so much we could only get the basics. Get more by subscribing to HCVS e-news ✉: gillian@hcv.org.uk

July

7 Jul Diaspora Refugee Week Event 2007

@ The Vortex Jazz Club N16 8JH

☎: 020 7923 3401/3533

7 Jul Free Form Activity Day

@ London Fields E8 3EU

☎: 020 7241 7479

7 / 8 Jul 10 - 7pm Inter-Faith festival

@ West Ham Recreation Ground E15 3BP

🌐: www.thursdays-child.co.uk

7 / 8 Jul 11am-8pm London Gospel Music Festival

@ Shoreditch Park N1

✉: rhines@secadventist.org.uk

7 / 8 Jul Healthy Living in Safer Parks Weekends

@ London Fields E8 3EU

☎: 020 7241 3692

✉: parkweekends@tiscali.co.uk

7 – 22 Jul SPICE Festival: Arts showcase

@ Various

☎: 020 8985 2424 🌐: www.spicefestival.com

8 Jul Games Day

@ Gillett Square E8 1HJ

☎: 020 7993 3644

✉: emmajones@hced.co.uk

10 / 17 Jul 4 – 7pm Keep it Rolling - Roller Disco

@ The Ocean E8 1HE

☎: 07904 640 000 / 07904 630 000

14 / 15 Jul: Healthy Living in Safer Parks Weekends

Haggerston Park E2 8QH See 7/8 July for contact details

14 Jul 2 – 5pm: Party in the Park

@ De Beauvoir Square Gardens

🌐: www.debeauvoir.org.uk/partyinpark

15 Jul 12 - 6pm UK Vietnamese Summer Fair

@ Burgess Park, SE5

🌐: www.vhms.org.uk

21 / 22 Jul Healthy Living in Safer Parks Weekends @

Shoreditch Park N1 See 7/8 July for contact details

28 / 29 Jul Healthy Living in Safer Parks Weekends

@ Hackney Downs E5 8NP See 7/8 July for contacts

August

1 Aug 12 - 4pm Hackney & Tower Hamlets Playday

@ Victoria Park, E3

☎: 020 7254 9944

4 Aug 12 - 4pm: '3 on 3' women's basketball

tournament @ SPACE 31 Falkirk Street N1

✉: meshellwilson@yahoo.com

4 - 19 Aug Shoreditch Festival 2007

@ Various

🌐: www.shoreditchfestival.org.uk/

10 – 20 Aug 12-6pm The Twits in Shoreditch

10 - 18 Aug 2 - 5 pm Drop in! Art Workshops

@ Standpoint, 45 Coronet Street N1 6HD

☎: 0207 739 4921

12 Aug Senegalese Music and Dance

@ Gillett Square E8 1HJ - See 8 July for contact details

23 Aug Bicentenary of the Abolition of Slavery event

@ The Maritime 'Slave' Museum, Liverpool

✉: DancemasterGozi@aol.com

September

Sept Write to Ignite Literary Festival

@ Various ✉: Mayachris@aol.com

1 Sept East London Dance Event

@ Gillett Square E8 1HJ See 8 July for contact details

9 - 15 Sept One Love Hackney - A week of civil pride

Festival on 15 Sept @ Clissold Park

🌐: www.hcv.org.uk

10 Sept Disability Hackney March

@ Hackney Town Hall

☎: 0207 249 7849

16 Sept Hackney Mare de Gras

@ Clissold Park

19 Sept 6.30 – 10 pm AIDS & Tuskegee experiments

@ Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8 2NS

☎: 0207 254 9632

27 Sept Black History Month Launch

@ Gillett Square E8 1HJ



2nd GuitarEast Festival

3 days. 75 unsigned musicians. 25 groups and 50 under 19s came together in June through the power of music and art.

📍 **GuitarEast**

☎: 020 7737 0028

Journey 2 SUCCESS

In April, nine members of voluntary and community organisations graduated from our pilot training programme, Journey to Success. For the first time, we brought together the skills of the HCVS Development team to give an intensive schedule combining training and one-to-one support. Our graduates worked round the clock to produce a working business plan, marketing profile and implemented the quality standard - Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations (PQASSO). All vital to succeed in winning commissioning tenders and funding.

Read on and meet some of our successful graduates and their organisations.



Songololo Feet



Durrah Mahmood (left) of Songololo Feet

Songololo Feet, the community textile printing facility, had been granted funding by the Community Investment Programme to run two projects over a period of six weeks.

The first project took place in London Fields School, with Year 3 children. The kids were very enthusiastic: their opportunities had been quite limited as art has taken a back seat in current school curriculum. The children designed t-shirts and banners as they learned silk screen printing techniques.

The second project (pictured above) involved two groups: older Asian

and Somali women. They were taken by Hackney Community Transport to Hackney City Farm, where the workshops took place. The women learned to use a variety of techniques (printing principles) including silk screen printing and tie-dye. This project had been very interesting in how the two groups learnt new printing skills. Also, the workshops proved to be therapeutic for the participants: it took them out of their usual environments to a new setting, thus expanding their experience.

Maia Kruger, Songololo Feet's Co-ordinator said "this is a starting point for us for future work with older people. This project has been a very inspiring and fascinating experience for both our groups as well as for us."



Eileen Bellot (left) of Hands Inc.

Hands Inc. is a not for profit organisation established in 2001 by complementary therapists Eileen Bellot and Rebecca Bruce. Hands Inc. supports community groups, schools, local authorities and primary care trusts in their work towards health improvement.

Hands Inc. aims to tackle health inequalities by improving access to complementary therapies through their low cost clinic, health initiative events, and providing a range of health and wellbeing workshops.

Through this work they realised that the staff of these organisations were also in need of support. Eileen from Hands Inc. said, 'How could they fully succeed in encouraging their clients to look after their wellbeing, if they were not addressing these issues themselves?'

Hands Inc. now provides a 'Wellbeing @ Work' programme delivering a range of complementary therapies, stress management and team building workshops to organisations, as well as working with the London borough of Hackney's, 'Healthy Workforce Strategy Working Group', developing the strategy for the borough.



Hands Inc.



Patricia Daway (left) of DaWAY TO FITNESS

DaWAY TO FITNESS is a world class London based Youth Organisation set up in May 2003. We work closely with partners to provide activities that cater for the different interests and needs of young people today.

We explore the issues that are of concern to both socially excluded and hard-to-reach aged young people aged 12 to 25 years. Together with our young people, we embark upon developing health and social awareness using all genres of multimedia to promote positive changes in young people's lives.

At DaWAY TO FITNESS we strongly believe in youth participation in the early stages of project development. Young people always have ideas and solutions to propose and if they are given the chance to be heard, their contribution can be extremely significant.

We recognise that young people are far more effective than adults in communicating prevention messages to other young people because they share similar experiences, use similar language, and their interactions are more authentic than adults. It is important that programmes run or, supported by us, meet the varied needs and are culturally sensitive to different traditions or background of our youth.

So far, over 500 young people have taken part in eight health awareness projects. We have a Highly Commended Award for effective management of volunteers from Sports England. Fifteen of our volunteers have Millennium Awards including Hackney Youth Awards. >>



Marchu Girma (left) of Narrative Eye

Narrative Eye is a dynamic

organisation committed to creating and promoting the richness of Black British literature and history. We believe education is the bridge to promoting understanding and tolerance. Our educational programmes will raise your level of cultural awareness through creatively challenging assumptions on issues such as identity, self-determination and the will to succeed. We discuss realistic outcomes that if you wish to adopt will aid to progress



Narrative Eye

within your educational, employment and social environment.

Our workshops encourage you to engage with history, creative expression and life long learning. We have held successful workshops and projects across the UK and abroad - working with schools, universities, libraries, individuals and organisations.

We are currently working with six schools in London delivering our Freedom Project.

This project highlights the leading roles played by Black people in Britain to abolish slavery. We have an extensive list of services we offer for Black History Month and beyond.



Kome Owuasu (left) of African Community School

We are a community organisation working from Princess May Primary School in N16 - one of the most deprived wards in Hackney. We provide an inclusive safe learning environment for children, young people and adults from across the community. We hope to relieve poverty and promote social and economic well-being of young children living in Hackney and surrounding areas.

We offer a range of services:

- Revision class for GCSE and

SATs test, homework support, ICT class, African dance and drumming class

- Extra tuition for both primary and secondary school subjects: KS1 to KS4

- Media skills and video production for 12 years above
- Youth programmes: drug awareness education, self development, confidence building through peer education schemes and peer mentoring

- Educational workshops and African cultural events for family
- Family learning and Adult Learning Programme focussed on ICT and accredited Adult ICT.

Opening times:

- Saturdays: 9.00am to 1.30pm
- Summer school: Mon - Fri: 9.00am to 5pm. ■

Journey to Success graduates

African Community School
"Supplementary School"

☎: 0845 0034 226

✉: office@acschool.org.uk

🌐: www.acschool.org.uk

DaWAY TO FITNESS

"Multi-media youth projects"

✉: info@dawaytofitness.org.uk

🌐: www.dawaytofitness.org.uk

Empowerment Development

"Financial advice for youth"

☎: 0207 249 6633

✉: lindonet@aol.com

Family Concern

"Supporting families"

☎: 07958 929809

✉:

familyconcern007@aol.com

Fresh Start Community Link

"Training for youth"

☎: 0208 533 7533

✉: freshstartcl@hotmail.co.uk

Hands Inc

"Health and wellbeing"

☎: 020 8806 9699

✉: handsinc@handsinc.co.uk

Narrative Eye

"Black British Literature"

☎: 020 8808 7547

☎: 07958 671 267

✉: thinktank_27@yahoo.com

Peer Centres

"Support for youth"

☎: 020 7249 9605

✉: peercentres@lycos.co.uk

Songololo Feet

"Community textile printing"

☎: 0207 241 5535

✉:

durrahadams@hotmail.com

Other groups not featured here, will be in the next SPARK - to find out more about these groups visit our website:

🌐: www.hcvs.org.uk

IHCVS: An Accredited Learning Centre

HCVS has added to its training repertoire - not only do we advocate on behalf of, and support, voluntary and community organisations, we are now an accredited learning centre. We can now deliver qualifications and awards approved by a national awarding body - ASET.

ASET administer a range of quality courses as well as devise qualifications that appear in the National Qualifications Framework.



Marie Walker

On top of this, our ESF Neighbourhood Facilitators programme has been approved as an ASET Award Level 3 qualification, a qualification that offers community workers the opportunity to expand on their local knowledge and expertise to become Community Consultants for the voluntary, community and public sector in Hackney.

As a licensed learning centre, we will be looking to deliver a range of courses relevant to the needs of the voluntary sector. As well as the bespoke Neighbourhood Facilitator training programme.

This is a great legacy - both to our late director, Adiaha Antigha whose brainwave was the Neighbourhood Facilitators. Thanks also go to Marie Walker (above), Project Co-Ordinator whose hard work made sure it's a success today. Marie's contract with us has finished but she goes on a high! **i** **Contact Gillian**
☎: 0207 923 1962. ■

LEAD-Hackney Learning Network Training Courses:

i For more information or to book on HCVS training courses contact Zarah: ☎: 0207 923 1962 ✉: zarah@hcvs.org.uk

Recruitment and retention of staff and volunteers

12 July, 10.00-16.00

Recruiting and keeping staff and volunteers sounds straight forward but it can be a legal and administrative nightmare and costly if handled incorrectly.

Finance: Cash flow and budgeting

19 July, 10.00-16.00

You will gain tools to prepare electronic budgets and cash flow forecasts, to assist your financial planning, and to plan for the short, medium and long term future of your organisation.

Key principles of marketing

26 July, 10.00- 3.30

Marketing: how you promote and develop your services to meet the needs of your audience. Get an easy to understand overview of Marketing, how it can be used to attract new users, partners and funders.

All training courses are at HCVS, 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street London E8 2LY.



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Jaz's story

An introduction
to Hackney
Mediation Service

Hackney

Our Mediation Service is

- free to anybody living in Hackney
- carried out confidentially by trained volunteer mediators
- able to help with many different types of neighbour disputes
- able to provide interpreters and signers for those who may need them



Me, Jaz



The mediators



My neighbour, Hannah

I was so angry. My neighbour just didn't care. She played loud music until 1.00am.



The mediators came to visit me at home.



They were great and they really listened to me...



...I felt better after a chat and started coming up with options I hadn't thought of before!



And the option I chose was...

...a face to face meeting in a safe space with my neighbour and the mediators there.



...and that's my story



To find out more about
mediation and how we might
help you please contact us:

Hackney Mediation Service
350 Bocking Street London E8 3RU
Phone: 020 8356 4794 Fax: 020 8356 4948
Email: mediation@hackney.gov.uk
Website: www.hackney.gov.uk/mediation-service

"Don't get mad get mediation!"

Hackney

Language is the source of misunderstanding

Hackney Save ESOL campaign helps gain government concessions

Since 2001 over £1 billion has been spent on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, but there are still long waiting lists. The government say this unsustainable and want to end free classes for asylum seekers and working refugees. SPARK spoke to members of Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF), and Hackney Community College who have been active in driving the Hackney Save ESOL campaign.



Hackney Save ESOL campaign April 2007



Ali Riza Aksoy, Chair of Hackney Refugee Forum

We started the Save ESOL campaign when the government said it would stop free English classes for refugees who are working and all asylum seekers.

Hackney Community College, the local branch of UCU (University and College Union) and Hackney Refugee Forum came together with some representatives from the Learning Trust, one or two councillors and some refugee groups, and we made a planning committee.

We organised mock ESOL classes on 16 February in the Town Hall square, and got lots of coverage in the local press. Eighty people tried to attend the mock classes, but we had to stop and put them on a waiting list. Then we spent half an hour chanting about integration, equality, free education for everyone - in our open air class room.

This activity was chosen as a role model for the national event on 28 February. It was repeated in 30 cities all over Britain, including Parliament Square where 1,500 people gathered to protest. Even though it was raining, people stayed to talk to local MPs and almost 200 signed an EDM (Early Day Motion) in support of the campaign. On the same day we took a deputation to the full council in Hackney.

In April, the government stepped back a bit and said yes, you are right it's unfair and now asylum seekers who have been here six months and some low paid refugees will be entitled to ESOL classes.

But it's not enough.

On 28 April, over 1,000 people marched through the streets of London and then met outside Hackney Town Hall to listen to ESOL teachers, students, college and union leaders, and members of parliament.

We need more investment if we are seriously talking about

integration. But instead of investing in people they are cutting the entitlements.

I am a living example. I am a refugee, if I hadn't learnt English I would be working in kebab houses.

If you can't understand what people say, you are deaf, if you cannot say what you need, you are dumb – if they stop free ESOL they are disabling us.

AA >>

If you can't understand what people say, you are deaf, if you cannot say what you need, you are dumb – if they stop free ESOL they are disabling us.

Ali Aksoy



Demo at Parliament Square

Knowledge of the English language is not a privilege. English language and culture are spread all over the world through the British Council, how can they deny basic English to people here?

Dr Bekele Gessesse



Dr Bekele Gessesse of Agroforep

We established

Agroforep in 1996 to support refugees from the Horn of Africa – Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan. We provide a wide range of advice services as well as ESOL and skills for life training and business advice.

We have 56 people a year in ESOL training, and about 40 of these would be affected by the changes. People who've been here a while may already speak some English, but we are mostly dealing with recently arrived refugees and asylum seekers.

Refugees who are working often can't afford to pay as many are paid far below the minimum wage.

Why is it so important? We are living in England; without the basic understanding of English I can't imagine how some people leave their hostels and come back again. Everyone needs language for communication, to get basic services, including health service, to discuss housing problems, speak to teachers about the progress of children – and for themselves, for further education and skills training. You can't do anything without a basic understanding of the language.

Most of these people are seeking

asylum, so they have probably been tortured, imprisoned, raped – they are traumatised and bereaved. On the one hand they think they have arrived in the land of democracy and then they find themselves in a detention centre or waiting for a visa, and they can't even have classes so they can speak for themselves.

Knowledge of the English language is not a privilege. English language and culture are spread all over the world through the British Council, how can they deny basic English to people here? BG



Peter Philbin ESOL lecturer at Hackney Community College and

UCU committee member

I was a language teacher, but when I got some experience of teaching ESOL I realised its immediate value. You're giving people a language that they could use that day, that week – you could feel and see the changes – so that's why I like it.

I've been working at the college for 11 years. We have 700 – 800 students in ESOL with a waiting list of over 1000. We did a survey

at the college, and they calculated that the changes would affect 20% of ESOL students.

The great misapprehension is that the student profile is of a very low level, when there are a significant number who have high professional skills who will eventually benefit this country the more. People think we're sat together rehearsing buying a flake – that ESOL is just about how do I call a plumber? Whereas, at the upper levels it's a very sophisticated programme with report based work, business and IT skills and is equated to A and A/S levels.

Without ESOL, these students will add to the skill shortage and be more likely to live on benefits. And for many women students ESOL is the gateway into helping their own children to assimilate as well as fulfilling their own educational goals.

The government want employers to make a contribution, but there's no lever to make them do so.

You could wall paper Hackney with fantastic ESOL – but the new criteria will indicate a reduction in demand which is untrue. When we can start midnight to 6am classes – then we can prove there is no demand. PP ■

Without ESOL, these students will add to the skill shortage and be more likely to live on benefits. And for many women students ESOL is the gateway into helping their own children to assimilate as well as fulfilling their own educational goals.

Peter Philbin

Why a Save ESOL campaign?

Free ESOL classes are vital so asylum seekers and refugees, who don't speak English and have little money, can find work and settle in the UK.

In March, Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, said "Since 2001, we have tripled funding in ESOL: £1 billion in ESOL services, as part of our £3 billion spend in ... the Skills for Life strategy. Over two million ESOL learners have benefited. But despite these increases, waiting lists ... are as much as two years. And it's the most vulnerable who are losing out. That's why... we took the decision to remove eligibility from asylum seekers... [and] those who can afford to pay... The fact that 70% of all applications for asylum fail, it seems inappropriate to fund learning for people who may not ultimately work or settle in this country".

Rammell went on to say that at least half current students should continue to qualify for free ESOL, and that the most people were being asked to contribute was 37.5% of the cost of the classes. He added that the government want employers to contribute to the cost of ESOL classes and that

they should see it as a "cost of production".

The Skills for Life strategy covers literacy and numeracy as well, and at a time of high skill shortage, the government is also keen to focus on this side of the programme. A third of adults in the UK have left school with no qualifications. Almost 15 million adults are functionally innumerate and five million illiterate.

Some concessions

On 9 April, the government back tracked somewhat, announcing that asylum seekers who have been here for six months would now qualify for free ESOL classes, and that £4.6 million would be added to the Learner Support Hardship Fund for vulnerable learners including spouses and low-paid workers.

In June, the Commission for Integrity and Cohesion (CIC) published Our Shared Future, which said ESOL funding should be 'reconsidered; and that more innovative ways of providing ESOL need to be looked at'. UCU have said that government concessions are not enough and have called for regional demonstrations for free ESOL and to protest against wider cuts in further education.

More information:

Hackney Refugee Forum

☎: 0207 923 1962

✉:

hackneyrefugeeforum@hotmail.co.uk

Agroforep

☎: 0207 923 1962

✉:

bekele@agroforep3.freemove.co.uk

University & Colleges Union

Save ESOL campaign:

🌐: www.ucu.org.uk

Sign the ESOL petition

2,230 signatories collected so far.

🌐: www.ucu.org.uk

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DOE: *developing organisations' capacity*

issue 6 - Governance



KISHORE SAYS:

“Clarity around roles and responsibilities is key to good governance.”

The organisation ensures that it governs itself effectively and responsibly. It demonstrates accountability to the appropriate people and bodies, and the Board of Trustees has the skills and information it needs to achieve its mission.

PQASSO standard of governance

Governance is key to the integrity of the voluntary and community sector. Good governance is all about keeping up with change and making the most of opportunities that come your way. Only by doing this can an organisation be sure that it is delivering on its mission in the most efficient and effective way.

In this issue of *DOE*, HCVS' Kishore Kanani looks at governance and how you can apply it in your organisation.

What is governance?

Governance is one of the 12 areas within PQASSO, the Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations. This is the quality standard for the voluntary sector, so a good place to start. Have a look at the PQASSO definition of good governance on the left.

Let's break this down:

Governance refers to the people responsible under the organisation's

governing document for controlling management and administration - they may be called:

- Trustees or Directors
- The Board or Management Committee

Governs itself effectively means:

- The Board carries out its business effectively and efficiently
- The Board contributes to the success of the organisation.

Governs itself responsibly means:

Trustees ensure the organisation meets all financial, legal and contractual commitments.

The skills and information you need to govern well are:

- Understand the views of users or those next to them
- Understand the views of supporters and community members
- Having people with financial, fund-raising, campaigning, management or other relevant skills
- Having people with the skills to lead and help with trustee work.

Governance resources to help you

Governance is often overlooked and you may struggle to find people to take on governance roles, and those who do, lack the right training. Trustees are often seen negatively by others within the organisation, as taking control away. A strong organisation will draw on the skills of good trustees and what they can bring to the organisation.

Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) Trustee Development Programme
These Directory of Social Change

workshops are for trustees of BME community organisations. **To book:**
☎: www.dsc.org.uk/bmetrustees

Governance hub: This partnership aims to improve governance within the sector. They have just launched **Partnership Small Grants Programme** - up to £10k for umbrella organisations and federated charities to support and improve the quality of governance in the sector - see page 35 for info.
☎: www.governancehub.org.uk



developing organisations' capacity

issue 6 - Governance

Are you unsure about how this relates to your organisation?

Answer this simple quiz, if you answer a 'no' to one or more of these questions, you can get help from the Governance Hub ☎: www.governancehub.org.uk.

Governance Quiz

Q1. Are you clear about the sort of organisation you are and the legal structure that you need to in order to carry out your aims?

Do you have an agreed constitution or set of rules?

Does your constitution meet the needs of the organisation, or does it need to be reviewed?

Yes

No

Q2. Is your organisation legally registered with the most appropriate legal structure?

Do you have an appropriate legal structure, such as:

- registered charity
- company limited by guarantee
- company limited by shares
- community interest company?

Do you have the guidance you need to establish and register your organisation legally?

Yes

No

Q3. Do you have a properly functioning board of trustees?

Do trustees understand their roles and responsibilities? Do all trustees have job descriptions and an induction pack?

Do you have enough trustees with sufficient skills and experience?

Do enough trustees attend meetings to effectively manage the organisation?

Yes

No

For more information call the HCVS Development Team on 020 7923 1962 or email:



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Zarah Mohoboob

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Moving Hackney's muslim community forward

Hackney's Muslim community was established here over 40 years ago. Today, our Muslim community has grown to make up 25,000 of the borough's population and are broad in terms of ethnic and national diversity. Yet, services that cater for the special needs of Muslims are poor. SPARK spoke to Munaf Zeena (far left) Chair of The North London Muslim Community Centre (NLMCC), who works hard to meet this gap and encourage the fair representation of Muslims.

What happens at the NLMCC?

We run a wide range of community services – from day-to-day and employment advice to bereavement counselling, the MP's surgery and we have a mental health worker.

Since 7 July 05 (7/7) bombings we have strongly encouraged the youth committee. We have a youth service here every evening and all day Saturday including a range of sports activities, and we recently organised a trip to Morocco so the young people could get to know each other and other cultures.

We also have a Sure Start Muslim women and children's centre, which we hope to develop. Since 7/7, we have prioritised working with women so they can better educate their young people about problems and issues. A toddler coming here will later use the youth service and through our engagement slowly develop their responsibilities to the community.



Increasing the peace at the Muslim and Jewish Forum

L-R: Munaf Zeena, Ruth Kelly Secretary of State for Communities, Rabbi Pinter and Diane Abbott MP

If you think about Muslims and Jews living side by side, you'd expect hatred especially because of the Israel / Palestine conflict. In fact there is a lot of contact...

Munaf Zeena, North London Muslim Community Centre

public meeting - it was a courageous thing to do, but it went down well. We had another meeting after the 7/7 attacks, and the forum has now been reported around the world. We need a full time worker to move initiatives forward to have a deeper impact on society.

On living in a Muslim and Orthodox Jewish Community

I came from Yorkshire when I was 12. The Muslim community in Hackney was quite small then. We lived in Rectory Road – six of us sharing a two room flat. I got TB because of the appalling conditions. It was the Jewish community who helped my father get us council housing.

Seven years ago we established the Muslim/Jewish forum – we didn't know how people would react as there was ignorance over the difference between Jews and Zionists. Zionism is a movement that supports a Jewish nation state in Israel. We held a

If you think about Muslims and Jews living side by side, you'd expect hatred especially because of the Israel / Palestine conflict. In fact there is a lot of contact – for example, most minicab drivers locally are Muslim, working largely for Jewish companies and the Jews feel very safe with Muslim drivers.

On Muslim extremism

There is a perception that all young Muslims are vulnerable to extremism, but rest assured we don't have anything of the radicalism represented in the media. You have to read between the lines of what they write – for example there is an Islamic society at the university I attend – some will view its work as >>

Islamic radicalisation, others as active citizenship. What I have seen them do is positive and for the good of society.

To tackle negative stereotypical views of young Muslims ourselves, we need to return to the way the Prophet Mohammed used the mosque in Medina as a community resource. In the past I've said the



mosque should be only for worship. But now, I believe Muslim leaders are slowly maturing, taking responsibility and becoming more willing to listen to the diverse Muslim community. There is more respect and understanding but we still have a long way to go.

Today young Muslims are far more educated and, living in this free society, are ready to express their views, which can lead to tensions. What we need is strong leadership, not the suppressing of free ideas, so we can guide people in the right direction.

The mosques have to look at modernising, without losing the essence of Islam, to meet the needs and aspirations of regular mosque goers – and to open the mosques to other members of the community.

On slavery and being English

Slavery is abolished but deep within there is a problem which manifests when we feel threatened and find the attitude 'we have the right to treat you badly'.

What causes the rise of English nationalism? The white working classes don't feel valued. As a way to tackle the British National Party (BNP), we could help to inform people about the opportunities in the global economy and nurture them to succeed.

When we have an identity crisis as a country there will be a weakness within. I feel English myself – not Scottish or Welsh – I want to reclaim the flag. I don't think you have to be white to be English. ■

More information:

North London Muslim Community Centre
66-68 Cazenove Road
London N16 6AA
☎: 020 8806 1147
✉: admin@nlmcc.org.uk
🌐: www.nlmcc.org.uk



21st celebrations!

Started by volunteers in a small corner shop on Chatsworth Road, the Asian Women's Advisory Service (AWAS) now provides a range of services including information and advice, mental health support, family support and a healthy living project. Following the celebration of their 21st Anniversary earlier this year, IAN DAVIES talked to Nazima Osman, Director, and Indira Rambhojun, Chair of AWAS.

Nazima Osman: "Our greatest achievement is to still be in existence after 21 years, remaining committed to working with Asian Women and gaining their confidence and trust. We have seen many projects fold in this time".

The anniversary was combined with a celebration of the completion of AWAS's interfaith project funded by the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. AWAS worked with young women from Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh communities to "create a balance between their family life, achievements, and goals" and to enable them to go out and work in the community knowing more about each other's faiths.

In the future, AWAS hopes to stand out in Hackney and beyond, and work to replace the stereotype of Asian women as victims, seen as suffering at the hands of mothers and partners.

Indira Rambhojun: "We want to see confident young women in charge of their own lives. As women, we know that there is a woman behind every decision. We can do everything! We just need to get out of the kitchen".

In the last SPARK, we said that AWAS hold sessions for Asian women over 60, it's actually for women over 50. ■

More information:

Asian Women's Advisory Service, AWAS
161 Mare Street
London E8 3RH
☎: 020 8533 5796
✉: mhawas@tiscali.co.uk
🌐: www.awas.org.uk

What is the future for our community centres?

Tenants and residents on Hackney’s estates are facing a series of changes being negotiated by Hackney Homes. There is the controversial plan to sell bits of land on estates for housing associations to build on, a review of tenant involvement and one on the running of Community Centres. The situation is complicated by the fact that much of the housing on Hackney’s estates is now owned and managed by housing associations who have separate agreements with their tenants.

SPARK looked at what’s happening with the community halls that are still owned by Hackney council. We spoke to Les Moore from the Better Homes Network and three Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) leaders who manage community centres voluntarily. No-one from the council was available to talk to us about this, but they passed on our questions to Hackney Homes whose comments are included below.



Hackney Homes

Will the council start charging TRAs for use of halls?

This is one of the TRAs main concerns – that they will be asked to cover gas, electricity and other bills for upkeep – which will in turn mean they have to make small community groups pay for the use of the hall. Many TRA members put in hours voluntarily looking after community

centres because they offer free space to unfunded community projects which benefit their estates.

A Hackney Homes (HH) spokesperson said: “Whether any charges are made for any particular hall is something yet to be resolved and may depend on whether it is justified in the light of the income received for lettings. Where there is little or no income this will be unlikely”.

Are the council bringing in a legal agreement with TRAs about the running of halls?

HH: “It is understandable that volunteers may not want the responsibility of a legally binding contract and so alternatives to this will be explored”.

What has happened to the consultation that Hackney Homes started last autumn?

HH: “Although no date has yet been set to commence the consultation process it is expected in the near future”. HH



Les Moore
Better Homes Network

We are very concerned about Hackney Homes consultation process following the resident involvement review. We share the concerns expressed by many tenants and residents about the future of their halls and we look forward to taking part in any future consultation.

We are also concerned to see that there is equality of service across tenure and to see how RSL (registered social landlord) Tenants Associations are supported. LM

📌 Jargon Buster

Lease-holders and residents: Own their houses.

Tenants: Pay rent on housing.

Tenants and Resident Association (TRA): A group of tenants elected by other tenants to represent them.

Registered Social Landlords: Provide rented accommodation.

Hackney Homes: Owned by Hackney council, manages the borough’s council housing.

Community Centres and Tenants Halls: Spaces for hire by the community.

Tenants Panel: Representative body ensuring tenant involvement in issues.

Service charges: Added costs to rent paid.

Resident Involvement Review: Hackney Homes review to involve residents.

Keyholders: Responsible for opening / closing tenant halls.

Better Homes Network: A tenants organisation run by tenants for tenants and residents. 📞: 020 7923 8180
✉: admin@betterhomes.org.uk

We hear from three leaders of Tenants and Residents Associations in Hackney...



Jackie Carter
Fellows Court
Community
Centre, E2

At the end of the day the council own this building and we are volunteers looking after it. We have full time jobs, but put hours and hours into running the community centre - and we're key holders so people come knocking on our doors at all times. We do this gladly because we believe in

We do this gladly because we believe in helping the community.

helping the community. All the money raised from renting out Fellows Court goes back into the community for things like youth projects, or trips for the elderly. The day we have to spend our time raising money to pay for bills on this building, service charges and business rates, is the day we pack up doing this. JC



Terry Edwards
MESH, the
Tenants Panel
for Homerton
Area, E5

For a good TRA, the community hall is its life blood. If we had to pay for the upkeep we'd have to pack in because TRAs are not funded. We put in thousands of hours a year for no money at all – the only thing we are supplied with is the hall.

For a good TRA, the community hall is its life blood.

If we let this hall out to a business venture and gained a lot of money for it, we would have no problem about paying for the gas and electric. But we don't, it's for the local residents and we never charge anyone. The problem with their agreement is that it's not been negotiated with residents.

One of the criticisms made of Hackney Homes is that there's not enough tenant participation – though I've visited many TRAs around the country and I think Hackney one of best boroughs for this.

People have tried to talk me round to this agreement for three years, and basically I can't see the difference from what we've got already. Every year a registered TRA has an AGM where all financial accounts are presented. If the council want to know which TRAs are making money, they should do a proper survey.

As well as this we've got a Compact with the council which covers all the things we do. I think there are other things they should be focusing on, like funding our youth centre, which is so terribly under staffed and lacking equipment. TE



Mike Casajuana
Haggerston
Community
Centre, E8

I think the agreement is long overdue – though I know this is not a generally accepted position. But I think things have got to change – our hall is idle for 70% of the time, and I understand its one of the best used.

...if a hall is going to serve the community as a whole, either the people supporting you have got to do things like the repairs quickly – or they've got to give you the money to do it yourselves

It's also got to change because of all the lease holders – the community centre is an estate service and theoretically they should be paying for it – so there has got to be transparency. I'm not saying that charitable groups should always have to pay to use the halls. I'm just

saying we should know what all the costs are, and then decide who pays for things.

I can understand TRAs not wanting to raise money for the bills. We already have to find the money for the rubbish collection – I don't know if other halls do that – and its more than £1,000 a year. It would be a shock to have to pay for everything. I've been asking how much the bills are on this hall for years, but I've been told that the council don't keep that information.

What I do know is that if a hall is going to serve the community as a whole, either the people supporting you have got to do things like the repairs quickly – or they've got to give you the money to do it yourselves. MC ■

Busy times for CEN

Welcome to Hackney's Community Empowerment Network (CEN) Update. The last three months have been a busy time, we've organised commissioning events for the voluntary and community sector (VCS), negotiated a new grants programme, we have recruited new VCS representatives for Team Hackney and we are looking for a new CEN Co-ordinator.

VCS representatives wanted for Team Hackney!

One of the CEN's core purpose is to enable and support the VCS to have a voice that feeds into the Team Hackney structures. We have been working closely with Team Hackney to recruit and select VCS representatives to serve on the partnership boards and sub-groups of Team Hackney.

We needed the expertise of the voluntary, community and faith sectors to ensure the development of the best possible services for local people in the borough. Twenty vacancies were available for VCS reps across the four Team Hackney partnership boards: Better Homes (3 vacancies), Children and Young People (1 vacancy), Economic Development Partnership (2 vacancies), Safer and Cleaner (14 vacancies). Our reps will help to give the sector a voice and an opportunity to influence future decisions in Hackney.

We received 36 applications in response to our call for VCS representatives. Now we are in the midst of interviewing candidates and confirming nominations. These new VCS

reps will be invited to join the CEN and play a key role in shaping the VCS agenda in Team Hackney.

New small grants programme from Team Hackney

Team Hackney Board has agreed to a new Team Hackney grants programme for 2007/08 totalling £750,000. **Up to £250,000 will be available for small grants of up to £5,000 with the remaining £500,000 available for grants up to the value of £50,000.** Fast track grants will also be available for groups to run summer projects.

Grants up to £5k and £50k are available under seven objectives:

- 1. Raising educational attainment**
- 2. Engaging 16-18 year olds in education, employment or training**
- 3. Cleaner, greener and safer public spaces**
- 4. Tackling domestic violence**
- 5. Supporting older people to live independently**
- 6. Reducing worklessness**
- 7. Innovation fund**

These objectives have been selected as the most appropriate areas for the sector to contribute to the outcomes of the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

As in the past, HCVS will market and administer this programme. Once the new grants programme is established it will be widely marketed so that VCS groups know about it, e.g. mailings, flyers.

Elizabeth Adebola, Senior Grants Officer

☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: elizabeth@hcv.org.uk

Recruiting a new CEN Co-ordinator

The CEN is looking for a new Co-ordinator to lead and manage delivery of the Community Empowerment Network work programme. Watch this space!

CEN Commissioning Events

A series of pre-commissioning events was organised by HTEN in partnership with HCVS for the voluntary and community sector in Hackney. The aim of these events was to introduce the priorities of Hackney's LAA and to let the VCS know how Team Hackney commissioning will work.

These one-day events gave the VCS a chance to find out about how the commissioning agenda is unfolding in Hackney and provided information on the current position of commissioning in the area, including how it might impact on delegates' own organisations.

Speakers from both Team Hackney and the voluntary sector set the local context and answered questions about what needs to happen to support local delivery of services by VCS organisations. There was also an opportunity to hear about what is happening elsewhere in the borough.

The funding climate for the sector is complex and uncertain. The VCS needs to be looking at how it can be ready for contracts. It also needs to work with Hackney Council and other partner organisations to draw up an agenda and to develop good practice. The information gained from the day is helping to set the agenda and meet VCS information needs on commissioning for the immediate future. ■

Funding and policy news



Marta Kolinska, (left) HCVS Grants Officer introduces the latest funding news.

Community in Portrait

Busy times ahead for the HCVS Grants team, with a new grants programme from Team Hackney due this summer. Voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) will be able to apply for up to £5k and up to £50k, plus a fast track summer grants programme. See page 34 for more details.

To celebrate the innovative and exciting work done by Hackney's VCOs thanks to these small grants, HCVS are holding a photographic exhibition called Community in Portrait.

Community in Portrait launches on Thursday, 26 July at our offices off Dalston Lane. You will have a chance to view the exhibition at our offices or at venues across the borough throughout the summer, including Hackney Central, Stamford Hill and Homerton libraries.

The photographs will feature Hackney-based groups who have been funded by last year's Community Investment Programme. The photographs have been taken by local photographer, Effie Fotaki.

Put this in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you in July.

📞 **Call Gillian at HCVS**

☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: gillian@hcv.org.uk ■

Young Black people and the CJS

Safe houses run by community groups, not the police, should form a key element in the development of gang exit programmes, say MPs.

A Home Office report: Young Black People and the Criminal Justice System (CJS), published in June, says the government must tackle the over-representation of young black people at all stages of the CJS, saying it poses a "serious crisis" for all sections of the black community. The MPs' proposals to extend mentoring and to increase funding for prevention, rehabilitation and gang exit programmes were supported by Nacro, the crime reduction charity, but it criticised their opposition to setting targets to produce more equal outcomes for young black people in the criminal justice system, saying discrimination remained.

Lambeth's successful X-it programme works with people at risk of gang membership was highlighted. X-it works in partnership with statutory bodies BUT is led by local young people and is community based.

Gary Francis, HCVS Strategic Priorities: "This echoes what we in the field have been saying for a while. Current programmes are insufficient to tackle the clear crisis that the government report has highlighted. It is also clear that the voluntary sector should be taking the lead in many of the critical areas of service delivery for young Black people in terms of providing innovation and support a very local level. This is no longer an issue where we can tinker at the margins; we are in serious danger of losing a whole generation of young Black people to hopelessness and despair. Action needs to be considered, but swift, well resourced and decisive.

Black young people are:

- **2.6x** more likely to be a violent crime victim; **1.6x** more likely to be robbery victim and **5.5x** more likely to be murdered
- **6x** more likely to be stopped and searched by police and **3x** more likely to be arrested
- **3/4** of the young black male population will soon be on the DNA database
- **8%** of young black people arrested were remanded in custody, compared with 4% of young white people. Overall, black people are **5x** more likely to be jailed. ■

📞 🌐: www.nacro.org.uk

Olympics 2012

The Big Opportunity launched in June showing what the voluntary and community sector can offer the Olympics 2012. Big is a partnership project between London Civic Forum, London Voluntary Service Council and East London CVS Network.

Shortly after, the government

responded to the e-petition to defend £675m of Lottery VCS funding from being taken for the Games. They confirmed that Big Lottery Fund resources for the VCS would be protected from this transfer. Money from other Lottery distributors would not touch current VCS commitments but this will be reviewed in the future.

📞 **Big Opportunity e-news:** ✉: communitynews@london2012.com ■

the funding directory

The information in this directory is produced by **Grants Online** and **fit4funding** – The Charities Information Bureau.

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Grants Online

📧: www.grantsonline.org.uk

fit4funding

📧: www.fit4funding.org.uk

✉: Andrew.Pring@fit4funding.org.uk

For all VCS activity

Charles Hayward Foundation - New Guidelines

Projects should:

- Be developmental or innovative
- Enable things to happen that would not otherwise happen
- Be preferably in its early stages rather than an already well supported appeal
- Be preventive or provide early intervention. Their preferred area of impact is at the community and neighbourhood level.

Small Grants: Up to £5k for charities with annual turnover under £250k.

Other Grants: £10k to £25k

📧 **Find out more:**

☎: 020 7370 7063

📧:

www.charleshaywardfoundation.org.uk ■

UK Film Council New funding priorities

UK Film Festivals Fund: £1.5m

UK Digital Film Archives Fund: £1m

Partnership Challenge Fund: £1m

London 2012 Olympics

Digitisation & Marketing Fund: £2m

📧 **Find out more:**

📧: www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk ■

Foyle Foundation New Guidelines

Learning: libraries, museums and archives; special educational needs and learning difficulties.

Arts: Performing or visual arts to develop artistic vision. Other priorities are: to help make the arts more accessible by developing new audiences, supporting tours, festivals and arts educational projects; and by encouraging new work and supporting young and emerging artists.

Health: Applications linked to a known medical condition; projects or core work that makes an active contribution to improved health care; smaller health charities, including those for rare or distressing conditions will be favoured.

📧 **Find out more:**

☎: 020 7430 9119

✉: info@foylefoundation.org.uk

📧: www.foylefoundation.org.uk

Tesco Charity Trust

Community Awards benefit local organisations whose core work supports children's education and welfare, children and adults with disabilities, and elderly people. Grants: One-off £1k to £5k

📧 **Find out more:**

☎: 01992 646768

📧: www.tescocorporate.com/charitiesandfundraising.htm ■

RBS Innovate – 2007/2008

RBS Innovate totals £100,000 and is allocated aim to encourage innovation in tackling financial exclusion amongst social housing tenants, and those experiencing homelessness.

Applications are now being taken for projects which should start by January 2008

Grants: Between £10k - £30k for 3- 6 groups.

📧 **Find out more:**

✉: transact@toynbeehall.org.uk

📧: www.transact.org.uk/ ■

For children's projects

Big Lottery Funding is Child's Play

Playful Ideas programme

Projects: Innovation and new ways of providing for children's play **Grants:** £10k to £250k

Children's Play programme

Projects: Each local authority area has been allocated an amount of money **Grants:** £10k to £250k **Deadline:** 10 Sept 2007

📧 **Find out more:**

☎: 020 7211 1800

📧: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk ■

Local Network Fund offers

grants from £250 - £7000 to small local community / voluntary groups who want to organise or run a project or activity for disadvantaged children & young people aged up to 19 years (or 25 in the case of young people with disabilities).

📧 **If you have a great idea for a project or activity:**

☎: 0845 113 0161

📧: www.hcvs.org.uk ■

For young people's projects

UnLtd Sport Relief is aimed at

young people between the ages of 11 and 21, who want to use sport to address a social problem or conflict within a community. £1m to give over the next two years!

📧 **Find out more:**

📧: www.unltd.org.uk/ ■

The Vodafone UK Foundation

helps 16 to 25 year olds facing exclusion from society, whether

reaching a cross road in their lives, struggling with emotional well-being or having difficulty accessing information they need.

Find out more:

✉: thevodafoneukfoundation@vodafone.co.uk

🌐: www.vodafoneukfoundation.org

Njoya Foundation fund projects that promote academic achievement and young people's growth through community-based personal development programmes - especially projects teaching young people an awareness of business and finance.

Find out more:

✉: info@njoyafoundation.org.uk

🌐: www.njoyafoundation.org.uk/grant_application.htm

Victims Fund: Supporting Victims of Hate Crime

£250k into the Victims Fund to develop support for victims of hate crime for the 2007/08 financial year. Open to any organisation in England and Wales with experience and expertise in working with victims of hate crime. Hate crime is any incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate. Projects are welcomed that tackle hate crime motivated by race, religion, homophobia, transphobia and disability.

Grants: Max: £ 30k

Find out more:

✉: VictimsFund@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Sign up for HCVS' free email newsletter and get funding news as it happens...

✉: gillian@hcv.org.uk

Working with young people?

The next Team Hackney Commissioning event is on 18 July 07, 10am – 4pm

AM: Activities to support young people aged 16 – 19 who aren't in Education, Employment and Training (NEET)

PM: Activities to help young people aged 18 – 24 work in the sports and leisure industry

Call HCVS

☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: info@hcv.org.uk

Tools for commissioning

A commissioning toolkit has been developed by the East London CVS Network to help boards and committees understand and explore the implications of embracing the new contractual environment (commissioning) in the delivery of public services.

Contact Josephine Mason

☎: 01708 778060 ✉:

josephine.mason@elcvsnetwork.org.uk

Funding resources

You can book time to view FUNDER FINDER at HCVS, this computer programme assists groups to identify suitable charitable trusts they can apply to. Access to over 4,500 funders which make grants to charities and VCS groups.

You get information about each funder found, but doesn't provide addresses or policy guidelines - you get this information from the library reference material we have at HCVS. **Jennifer Rowe**

☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: jennifer@hcv.org.uk

More buildings for communities

Local Government Minister Phil Woolas has challenged councils to breathe new life into run down buildings by transferring them to community groups for as little as £1, saying that he expects every council to step up by this time next year.

Community groups putting forward a proposal to take over a public building must make it clear how it will add value to the local community.

Useful Contacts: The Development Trusts Association

🌐: www.dta.org.uk/resources/publications

The Adventure Capital Fund:

🌐: www.adventurecapitalfund.org.uk

Community Development Finance Association:

🌐: www.cdfa.org.uk

Case Studies:

🌐: <http://togetherwecan.direct.gov.uk/latest-news/more-buildings-for-communities/>



Need a venue for your meeting?

HCVS has conference rooms you can book with PowerPoint projector and OHP for small meetings of 30 people and larger space for seating up to 50 people and, of course, refreshments for your guests.

To check availability, please contact Jennifer on 020 7923 1962 or email: jennifer@hcv.org.uk

Fighting to keep Hackney Marshes green

For this summer issue of SPARK we speak to Anne Woollett, Chair of Hackney Marsh User Group & Hackney Environment Forum (HMUG). Anne talks about how the Forum encourages local people to make the most of Hackney Marshes and their fight to keep it a green space the whole community can enjoy.

How did you get involved in the HMUG?

When I first moved to the east side of Hackney I saw some walks advertised and discovered the Lea Valley. I joined HMUG when it set up, shortly afterwards, in 1987.

What does HMUG do?

We're more practically based than most park groups. We've been planting trees since 1988, and we've set up a tree nursery which has an edible garden - today we picked our first raspberries and strawberries.

We run walks, like our dawn chorus walk when 25 people came at 4.30am to listen to the birds. One reason for the walks is that some people feel anxious about somewhere as big as the Marshes, and like it more in company.

We bring children to the Marshes from local schools - this week they're going to mulch the trees they planted in winter - it gives them a sense of continuity. Our volunteers work alongside the council rangers; it's a good partnership.

What did you do for London Sustainability Weeks?

Over 60 people came to our walk



Photography M Wells

Environmentalist: Anne Woollett

with bat detectors - we've been doing them for a year or two - it's fun walking late in evening. And we had a session at the tree nursery.

What about the Olympics?

We've objected at all levels about the encroachment and removal of open space, as well as the loss of trees and part of the tree nursery.

What puts people off is not just the taking away of open space - it's the way the juggernaut just rides over everybody. Then people like me having to do nagging and nattering.

We're trying to negotiate with London Development Agency (LDA) - we had one meeting at the end of March, then they kept saying they'd get back to us. Eventually we had another meeting fixed, but they cancelled at the last minute saying they would email us that afternoon, but we've still heard nothing.

The latest decision is to move the Traveller site from Waterden Road onto the Marshes, when what they should be finding is a

more appropriate site to integrate the Travellers into the community.

What puts people off is not just the taking away of open space - it's the way the juggernaut just rides over everybody. Then people like me having to do nagging and nattering.

What do you see for the future?

The marshes are huge, they can absorb a lot, so developments don't ruin the whole thing. In that sense I'm hopeful in the long term. But I'm incredibly anxious for the Marshes over the Olympics.

What was a peaceful open space is being seen as a resource. We're reassured that we will get East Marsh back and that there will be all sorts of advantages. But Arena Fields is becoming a media centre - with a multi-storey car park as a legacy. ■

More information:

HMUG and Hackney Environment Forum

☎ : 0208 985 1256

✉ : a.woollett@btinternet.com

🌐 :

www.hackneyenvironment.org.uk

IBLOCKORAMA is here to stay!

Gillett Square reverberated across Dalston in June, to the sounds of six steel pan bands from all over the East End (pictured right). All playing in friendly competition, urged on by an enthusiastic audience of all ages.

There was great food and Tropical Isles Carnival Dance group provided a huge dash of colour with their carnival costumes and dance.

This was the first Blockorama event to hit London, thanks to



the work of Newham Steel Band organisers and the local arts management group, GS2 and funding through Big Lottery's Awards for All scheme. This is the first of many such steel pan events to come to Gillett Square.

📍 Come and play at Games Day, Gillett Square on 8 July

☎: 020 7933 3644 ■

Images of freedom

An exciting new Hackney based arts project, **Images of Freedom, will tour the UK from October.**

Conceived by writer and performance poet, Ngoma 'Dee Two-Four Carat Silver' Bishop, eight exciting young (and not so young) artists explore freedom to commemorate Abolition 07. They are Arlene Wandera, Beverly Carpenter, Clement Cooper, Danya Defreytus, David Jake Huglin, Giuli Sommantico, Poulami Desai and Syra Miah from backgrounds including; African, Caribbean, English Irish, Jewish and Polish.

Artists benefit by working alongside practitioners with different approaches and techniques and by reaching wider audiences and establishing new markets. They have little direction other

than that each piece must be new, innovative and displayed either alone, or as part of the project. Images of Freedom will reflect many cultures, social backgrounds and creative techniques. Resulting in a collage of perspectives representing radically different yet complimentary interpretations of freedom to form a thought-provoking spectacle and exhibited either in parts, or as a single project.

Images of Freedom is promoted by 'Ultra-Promo' of 'The House of Art and Music Production Services' (H-AMPS), a Hackney-based Black lead voluntary sector arts group - formerly 'The Artiste and Music Promotion Service' (AMPS).

Dates: 29 Oct - 15 Dec, shown for a week in: Hackney, Bedford, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Huddersfield, Liverpool and London (Camberwell). **📍 H-AMPS**

✉: irchrds@aol.com ■

New LGBT Forum for Hackney

The Hackney Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) Forum is a new initiative - anyone living, working or playing in Hackney is encouraged to get involved. The group exists to review how service providers interact with and support the LGBT community in Hackney. The Forum is an independent body run for and by LGBT volunteers. Membership of the Forum is open to all who identify as LGBT and it is hoped that in coming months the forum will become a respected voice for LGBT equality in the borough.

The Forum was set up to celebrate the new Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007, which makes it unlawful to discriminate in the provision of goods, facilities and services on the grounds of sexual orientation. The Forum will soon begin a comprehensive review of how service providers in Hackney ensure compliance with the Act and engage with the LGBT community.

Said Joy Kahumbu of the Forum: "This is an exciting time - for the first time the LGBT community will have the right to challenge inequality in the services we all use and all pay for - it could be something as simple as being asked to leave a cafe for kissing your partner, or more serious such as a refusal of officials to record or tackle harassment. As LGBT people we are often overlooked in service provision, such as residential homes - at last we have a tool to challenge this - it is up to us to use it. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank HCVS and the Community Empowerment network for their generous support."

We anticipate that similar groups will spring up across the capital. We meet regularly and are actively seeking new members, contact us below.

📍 Hackney LGBT Forum

✉:hackney.lgbt@googlemail.com ■

Grants for Hackney's children and young people

Up to £7k to do something brilliant



If you run a community project that improves opportunities for under 19s, or under 25s with learning disabilities, in Hackney, you can apply for a Local Network Fund grant of between £250 - £7,000.

To find out if you are eligible call Nadia Capogrosso at HCVS today on 020 7923 1962 or email nadia@hcv.s.org.uk

call 0845 113 0161

RNID Typetalk 180001 0845 113 0161

for an application pack



local network fund
for children and young people

Department for
education and skills
creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence

