



ALGIN SAYDAR:
more than one approach to parenting



MELANIE DANAN:
introducing our charedi community



ANNA O'BRIEN:
new face of community empowerment

HCVS' magazine for Hackney's voluntary & community sector

SPARK



In this issue:

- ▶ one love hackney
- ▶ commissioning
- ▶ full cost recovery
- ▶ young people's mags
- ▶ hackney refugee forum
- ▶ tributes to three elders
- ▶ meet caroline nelson
- ▶ a new compact
- ▶ plus the latest funding news

**talking legacy:
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SPARK is produced by Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS), Hackney's leading voluntary and community sector support agency. Our team of experienced and dedicated professionals provide funding, information and training to support over 1,900 local voluntary and community groups across Hackney achieve their aims and objectives. We have set up and support existing networks across Hackney such as Black & Ethnic Minority Arts (BEMA), Disability Hackney, Refugee Community Champions, LEAD – Hackney Learning Network and the Community Empowerment Network. We co-ordinate Youth Futures, a new initiative to tackle gang and gun violence.



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Autumn 2007



Welcome back - summer's over but there's a brief reminder of what went on in Hackney on pages 20 and 27. Lots of women feature in this SPARK, so we have decided it would be the women's issue - go girls! Commissioning is still high on the agenda but I know a lot of people are still confused about it - so we've covered this on page 23. And with info on full cost recovery on page 33 - there's a lot to get through but it's worth it... **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 1,400 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.

The Crib: The Young People's Project Relaunch



Open day at The Crib on Friday 24 August, including the re-opening of the Computer Room dedicated to Barrington Williams who died when he was shot outside the Palace Pavilion Club in January 2007. The ribbon was cut by Deputy Speaker Cllr Ian Rathbone alongside Barrington's mother Beverly Williams and sister Serena, pictured below.

Janette Collins spoke to SPARK about the re-opening of The Crib.

"Today is the relaunch of the computer room and the youth room because it was completely burned down, and then we were burgled. Everything had gone, down to the ping pong balls - and all our memories, though they live on in our hearts. It's the support of Hackney Youth Service that has helped us come back like this.

The computer room is called the Rome Education Space and is dedicated to Barrington Williams - Rome was his street name. In this space we'll have our study group programme where we will support young people who slipped through the net at school. We start by going to their homes - giving them one to one support to bring them back up to speed.

Another workshop we're running is Trading Places where police and young people trade places to break down barriers. We're also doing a healthy eating project -

teaching young people how to cook for little money - as well as sport and recreation, dance, drama, video and music workshops, anti-bullying work and we're promoting peace through T shirts.



There are young people here from all different postcodes - we're also working in Homerton and Milton Gardens. Our hope is that we can grow and grow and set up The Crib all over Hackney and try to promote peace through cohesion. Then I want to hand it all over to the kids to run." ■

📍 **Janette Collins, The Crib**
Benyon Court, Balmes Road N1
 ☎: 07813 901 751



Serena and Beverly Williams



What does violence mean to you?

Alternatives to Violence

Whilst gun crime, gang warfare and antisocial behaviour have hit the headlines this summer, young people from 9 to 18 have been taking part in Alternatives to Violence workshops. This is part of a six week summer scheme focused around health and well being at the Pedro Youth Club.

Facilitators from Alternatives to Violence Project and Leap's young Peerlink led the workshops. But the content of the sessions came from the young participants and the violence that they face.

The image above shows a brainstorm of what these young people consider violence to be and the circled words show what violence they have experienced personally.

"Young people are increasingly exposed to and involved in incidents of violence, bullying and aggression in their homes, schools and communities" said Natalie Hewison, AVP London Coordinator. "The workshops we have delivered over the summer have helped them to explore the choices they have and to develop skills to handle the difficult situations they face". ■

📍 **Natalie Hewison, The Anti-Violence Project**

✉: info@avplondon.org.uk

Want to make your own film?



Picture yourself here?
(L - R) Drastic, Terri (director) and Cro

In 1992, Dotun Adebayo established The X Press publishing house in Mabley Street Homerton, in his business partner's front room. Following its success and his career with BBC Radio, he has now, with his wife, reggae singer Carroll Thompson, set up Colour Telly – a black interest internet TV station which they describe as “TV without prejudice”. Dotun talks about Colour Telly and how you can get involved.

“The Wilberforce commemoration spurred me on, I was suspicious of the focus. For some in the black community it became about a white guy who took out an Act of Parliament, when millions of slaves had been fighting and dying for freedom.

But basically we've done it because people wanted it. The most common response from people in the black community is 'About time too'.

It's internet based and there are two channels, the basic one is free, and the subscription one, where we put things that cost us money, costs 14p day.

We are looking for film makers; if you've got a camcorder and want to make your own film, or if you want to get involved in any aspect of film making – camera, editing, interviewing – get in touch. We do pay, but not a huge amount. We're also looking for people hosting events of black interest, or for people running projects. We're keen to do interviews and we're keen to be involved in local communities as much as possible.

It's taken 12 months to get to this stage, but now it's taking off – we've been on air since 1 August and we're getting 18,000 hits a day.”

i Dotun Adebayo, Colour Telly

☎: 020 8 368 2526 ✉: info@colourtelly.tv

🌐: www.colourtelly.tv ■

Save our cinema

SPARK spoke to Julia Lafferty, Secretary of the Friends of Clapton Cinematograph Theatre campaign.



We started in 2007 when the courts closed Palace Pavilion Club, left, after a long campaign by Clapton Pond Neighbourhood Action Group, police and councillors. The

community celebrated as they had fought hard to get rid of the gangsters and what they saw as an evil influence on young people.

The idea to revive the cinema came from the legacy report of the Clapton Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Steering Group. This showed people didn't want to see everything razed to the ground, but to keep historic landmarks as focal points for regeneration. Otherwise you end up with shopping malls and car parks and no community memory.

The cinema gets enthusiasm from everyone and would bring life to what was a no go area. Older people remember the Kenninghall Cinema and when they see the old posters, recall memories. There are 10 secondary and primary schools within a quarter of a mile, so we'd like to involve them in learning cinematographic arts. We only had our first meeting in April this year – but the public response has been brilliant.

We see this as a three stage campaign: the first challenge is the ownership and preservation of the building, then we need funding for restoration and finally have the resources to run a financially viable cinema. We held talks with the council's Interim Head of Regeneration and received cautious support. Discussions with Film London and the council's Cultural Development Unit produced a list of people and organisations to approach.

It's down to political will to support the community's desire for a cinema – an Olympic legacy for Clapton and a symbol that the community have triumphed over the gunmen and drug dealers. The former Clapton Cinematograph Theatre will be 100 in 2010 and we are working for real progress by then.

i Julia Lafferty ☎: 0208 806 2441

✉: saveourcinema@hotmail.co.uk

🌐: www.saveourcinema.org ■

Journey

2

SUCCESS

In the last SPARK we introduced five of our successful Journey 2 Success graduates. This was our pilot intensive training programme, combining training and one-to-one support. Read on and meet three more of our successful graduates.



Hermine Shaw, left, from the PEER Centres.

Established through the hard work and dedication of community counsellor and

psychotherapist, Hermine Shaw, the PEER Centre hopes to become a onestop mentoring and counselling service for youngsters aged 14-25.

“Our work is dedicated to helping young people to transform their lives by breaking free of drug-taking and crime. We help those with challenging behaviours such as stress, depression, mental health, or those experiencing sexual abuse, substance misuse, and alcohol dependence, to live an independent and fulfilled life without fear of discrimination.

I decided to establish the organisation after discovering that here was a real shortage of drug rehabilitation centres in the East End of London and that the ones which did exist were wholly inadequate for the needs of the attendees. I want to make a positive difference to the lives of these youngsters.”

📍 Hermine Shaw ☎: 020 7249 9605 ✉: peercentre@lycos.co.uk



Julie Lindo, above, of Empower Development.

“Our Money Management Programme is for young people aged 9 to 17 year olds. We want to change young people’s attitudes to money, to help them feel good about their lives and their community and not fall into debt.

In today’s society, we are all encouraged to spend money we don’t always have in order to buy things that we hope will improve our life. Sadly, easy access to credit means people find themselves in a cycle of debt that is hard to get out of.

By holding money management courses on subjects like managing spending, finding out how to budget and setting up business, we hope to change this around for Hackney’s young people so they have a better chance in life.

One of our young people had this to say: ...In my English class yesterday, I had to talk about my goals and my future plans. Everyone – including my teacher was so shocked to see how focused I am about my future. Thank you so much for helping and challenging me to desire my profession even more so, so that it would not just be a dream but a reality. Charissa Harewood, 14yrs.”

📍 Our five day course starts 22 Oct, to book:

☎: 020 7249 6633

✉: lindonet@aol.com

Carol Parchment (right) of Fresh Start Community Link.



“Fresh Start Community Link gives young people in Clapton Park work experience and training to get them into jobs. We work with mainstream job agencies like Working Links and Connexions as well as the Housing Office and the Youth Offending Team (YOT) at Hackney council.

I got the idea from talking to young people who come to my internet café, Cyber Juices. Since we opened in January 2006, Cyber Juices has become one of the main social hubs in the area. As the nearest JobCentre is Mare Street, local young people wanted somewhere close that they could get job advice and training. I found myself helping them write CVs, telling them about interviews and many got jobs.

We are still planning our next course but it will be running from Monday, 22 October on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Young people can learn what to say and how to dress for interviews, how to write CVs – everything they need to know to improve their chances of getting employment.”

📍 To find out more call Carol Parchment

☎: 0208 533 7533

✉: freshstartcl@hotmail.co.uk

spotlight on clapton park



Photography S Khan

With famous connections from Leyton Orient Football Club to Elizabeth Taylor, the spotlight was once again on Clapton Park when a TV's secret millionaire paid a visit. SPARK spoke to the estate's voluntary and community groups to uncover the tough work that goes on to make sure people in Clapton Park make it.



Ufu Niazi
(left)
Centre
Manager of
Pedro Club

“Elizabeth Taylor is

our honorary president and she opened this site in 1969 with money from a film premiere. I've worked here for 25 years and I know the club is central to young people's link with the local community. When we're not here, crime rises.

Young people have a great say in how the club runs through the two youth councils. We've set up bike workshops, boxing training, dance, sport and computer workshops. We're introducing activities for girls which are based on their ideas. There are normally 40 to 60 young people here – predominantly boys and young men. Which is a lot for an area as isolated as this.

This year we featured on Channel 4's The Secret

Millionaire. We thought they were making a film about voluntary work, but it turned out this chap, Ben Way, was a millionaire. Ben donated £20,000 to the club, and I embarrassed myself and cried on TV.

I would have ended up a statistic if a youth worker hadn't pulled me aside and helped me achieve my potential.

With the money we're setting up a recording studio which should generate income for the club. This year we've also had £20,000 from London Councils. I haven't been paid properly since



Pedro Club IT workshop

February, but I also work as an IT lecturer at London Metropolitan University. You can't measure what you do by money. A thank you from a kid is worth more.

I work about 40 hours a week here because that's what it takes - the community is made up of people who give themselves to a wider cause. I'm from this area. I was a gang member before, but gangs were nothing like the ones now. I would have ended up a statistic if a youth worker hadn't pulled me aside and helped me achieve my potential. I'd like to get back to that greater sense of community we had then. We didn't feel that our life was really threatened - young people now are constantly aware of the physical threat to them.

Clapton Park is a great community - diverse beyond normal description - and it gains a dynamic from that. I'd rather live here as part of a huge family than in Hampstead rich and isolated.” continued overleaf >>

Roots of Clapton Park

Clapton Park was marsh land until the influx of people in the 1860s put pressure on housing in the high streets of Clapton and Homerton. Terraced housing was built throughout the area. In December 1870, a fever hospital (later known as the Eastern Hospital) opened where Homerton Hospital is today. The smallpox hospital next door was still being built to prevent the spread of the epidemic, which killed 8,000 people in London between 1870 and 1871.

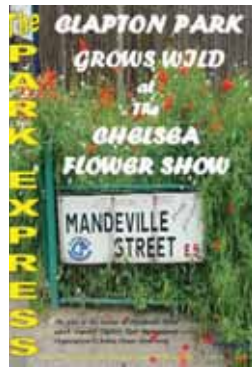
Clapton had been a middle class area, then the arrival of artisans and the fever hospital caused the wealthier inhabitants to move up the hill around Clapton Pond and Stamford Hill.



1800s: Factory life

Clapton Park terraces were cleared as part of the slum clearance programmes to build Clapton Park estate. Which, in turn, was largely cleared in 1993, when most of the tower blocks were blown up and low-rise estate housing built. In 1994, Clapton Park Management Organisation (CP-MO) took over the running of the estate, though Hackney council remains the landlord.

🔗: **See the blow down:**
www.hackney.gov.uk/housing-blowdown-clapton93-wmv.htm



Maud Copley, left, TMO Board member

Twenty per cent of Hackney's

estates are now self managed by Tenant Management Organisations (TMOs). One of the first was Clapton Park Management Organisation (CP-MO) where residents manage 1,500 properties.

SPARK spoke to Maud Copley, who has been part of the TMO since it was set up 12 years ago.

“This year one thing we did to try to make the estate better is to have wild flowers planted all around the estate in all the spare bits of land – they’re growing up the railings and even on one of the roofs.

John Little from The Grass Roof Company, who did the work, contacted Chelsea Flower Show, and we were accepted. We even won a silver award. We all went there with the display, and one group after another came to talk to us from all over the world. They were really interested and clapped at what we said.

We took on running the estate ourselves, because we really felt



Clapton Park

Photography S Khan

it would get better. But setting up a TMO takes a lot of time, especially at first, we had nothing to start with. We’re all volunteers and sometimes we spent three nights a week at work. At first we did everything, even interviewing staff.

We’ve got a little office now and we employ Pinnacle to run the estate day to day. Now we can do things like give funds for football kits.

We’ve got a shop by the office where you can take unwanted clothes, and then people can buy them back cheaply. The police come one day a week, we’ve got a Turkish interpreter and we’re setting up Health Visitors. It helps that all three ward councillors live on the estate and are on the board.”

We took on running the estate ourselves, because we really felt it would get better. But setting up a TMO takes a lot of time

Where is Clapton Park?





Photography S Khan

Mark Whyte, Chair of Clapton Park Tenants and Residents Association (TRA)

“Since the TMO is managing the housing and repairs, the TRA decided to focus on other issues. About five years ago, we held 10 meetings with money from the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) – the best was about anti-social behaviour and young people. We analysed our skills in the TRA and found that we all had a passion for arts or sports, so we decided to share that with young people.

We developed a play based on the young people’s experiences, called Junior’s Story. Most boys on the estate read the part of Junior in workshops, and in 2005 we had the first production and sold out the Hackney Empire Bullion room. This year we’ve just finished Junior’s Story 2 where Junior went to prison to show the consequences of actions. Hackney Empire want to develop it and take it to the Edinburgh festival.

We’ve also got a younger drama group which is run by Naomi Beckles – over the summer they

We’re filling in the gap in the hope that one day someone else will take it on and we can be the founders rather than the doers.

developed a production of “The Wiz” based on the Wizard of Oz.

Some of the young boys didn’t want to do drama, so we recruited volunteer coaches, and started an Under 16s football team. They entered into a small competition the Football Association (FA) was running for six weeks, and won. We then widened the net and recruited any footballer from the area and went on to win the East London Sunday League in our first season. We’re also running an Under 12s team so we can engage with young people from an early age.

It really helped that the police supported us financially in the beginning, and that we’ve got a brilliant coach, Decarlo Franklin, who’s also a mentor to the boys.

I put in about 36 hours voluntarily a week – I’m doing it because it’s where I live and so you do what’s needed. We all put in lots of hours, we’re filling in the gap in the hope that one day someone else will take it on and we can be the founders rather than the doers.” ■

Roots of Clapton Park



Leyton Orient connections

In 1881, members of the Glyn Cricket Club, formed a football team to keep fit in the winter. In 1888, on the suggestion of a player who worked for the Orient Shipping Line, the club took the name of Orient, and later Clapton Orient – playing at Millfields Road.

In 1928, their ground was used to build Clapton Orient stadium for Greyhound racing, with a new type of electric hare. Clapton Orient had to move on – to Leyton – and on to become Leyton Orient.

The Clapton Orient stadium was sold by the Greyhound Racing Association in 1969 and made way for Millfields estate.



Famous from Clapton Park: Anthony Newley

Anthony Newley, the 1960s film star who played the Artful Dodger in the 1948 film ‘Oliver Twist’ and married Joan Collins, was born in Clapton Park in 1931. Anthony attended Mandeville primary school, before being evacuated to Morecombe in Lancashire during the Second World War.

More information:

Clapton Park – Management Organisation (CP-MO)

c/o The Housing Office 4A Gilpin Road London E5 0HL

☎: 0208 356 6350

Clapton Park Tenants & Residents Association (TRA)

Vi Forrester Hall, 5 Gilpin Road London E5 0HG

☎: 0208 985 6297

Pedro Club

175 Rushmore Road, Hackney, E5 0HD

☎: 020 8985 3800

Older people get militant



SPARK spoke to Monty Goldman, left, Treasurer, Hackney Council for Older People.

“Hackney Council for Older People (HCFOP) is an umbrella organisation for the pensioners movement. We work closely with Hackney Pensioners Convention, the Woodberry Down Elders and the Irish Elders.

We were set up 10 years ago as an off-shoot of Better Government for Older People. When that money dried up, we continued with the support of Hackney council as an independent self supporting organisation, democratically elected and with a paid worker.

We’ve taken two deputations to the Council over the years – one about cuts affecting older people, the other on public toilets. We organised a visit to the European Parliament in Brussels for 25 older people, who took part in the launch of the campaign to win a European Directive outlawing discrimination against older people in the provision of goods and services.

I’d like us to be seen as a militant fighting force amongst older people. In the future I’d like to see us gain a full set of affiliates and advance the cause of campaigning through those groups.”

Hackney Council for Older People welcomes affiliation from bona fide older people’s organisations from all Hackney’s communities. Their Annual General Meeting is 11am -3pm, 17 October @ Council Chamber, Hackney Town Hall, Mare St, E8. Everyone welcome. ■

📍 Kaluba Chitumbo, HCFOP

☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: cfophackney@googlemail.com

Dignity for Older People

David Holland from Age Concern Hackney talks to SPARK about work on a Dignity Charter to protect older people.

“There are growing concerns about the abuse of older people in care homes, proper nutrition in hospitals and other areas where older people feel they are infantilised and treated with scant respect.

Hackney’s Older People’s Board brings together professionals from the NHS, the City, Hackney council and the voluntary and community sector. They invited the Older People’s Reference Group (OPRG) to develop a

Dignity Code based on research into which ‘dignity’ issues older people considered important. This has gone to the Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission who may recommend it to be included in older people’s service contracts.

The Code will be launched at the seventh Annual Event of the OPRG on 25 October - focusing on ‘Quality of Life’ with ten workshops on areas from Fighting Age Discrimination to Spirituality and Personal Values. Guest speaker, Chris Manthorp, Guardian Columnist will be there and a panel of senior local health professionals for a question and answer session.” ■

📍 OPRG:

🌐: www.speakuphackney.org.uk



Michelle, Cllr. Faizullah Khan with UPF Secretary and Director

Ambassador for Peace

Local community activist Michelle Goldberg was awarded an Ambassador of Peace by fellow Ambassador, Councillor Faizullah Khan, the Speaker of Hackney on behalf of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in South Korea in July.

Launched in 2001, over 70 people have been appointed Global Ambassadors for Peace, individuals who strive for peace.

Michelle Goldberg is an advisor to London 21 Sustainability Network and a council member of the London Civic Forum. An avid communicator, Michelle works hard to improve awareness of natural health and environment information and opportunities amongst the community in Hackney through EcoVillage Urban Initiative.

On collecting her award, Michelle said: “This award recognises the work I have been doing through EcoVillage Urban Initiative to redevelop inner city housing estates into sustainable and peaceful communities where people can grow in harmony and creativity.” ■

📍 EcoVillage Urban Initiative

✉: eco-

village2000@blueyonder.co.uk

I Hackney LGBT Forum

Andrew McCabe reports from Hackney's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Forum.

2007 marks the 40th anniversary of the Sexual Offences Act which came into force in England and Wales in 1967, making it easier for men to live an openly gay life. Hailed as a landmark in gay rights - it was a long time before more substantial change began to happen.

Thankfully, as political parties line up to embrace a more inclusive and fairer society, we have recently seen an acceleration of equality initiatives:

- an equal age of consent
- it's now against the law to discriminate against lesbian, gay and bisexual people in the workplace
- civil partnerships - grant similar rights and responsibilities to lesbian and gay people to those enjoyed by married straight people
- it's now a criminal offence to abuse someone on the basis of their sexuality
- the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations - it's now illegal to discriminate against lesbians and gay men in the provision of goods and services.

We have also begun to see many more high profile LGBT people in public life. We have become more open

in entertainment, we now feature in soaps and there has even been a Big Brother winner who was a transsexual - well done Nadia! We



Big Sister: Nadia Alamada

now have openly gay and lesbian MPs, police, and doctors. Even so - as with most equality issues there is still much work to be done. We don't yet have any out gay footballers! Some attitudes will take a long time to change.

The Hackney Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Trans Forum promotes the interest of our diverse community, our aim is effective engagement with service providers - saying what we think of the services we all pay for - both good and bad. ■

Andrew McCabe

✉: hackney.lgbt@googlemail.com

I Be the best - Free training at HCVS!

Do you want help with managing your finances or improving your marketing skills? Want to know how to tap into local funding or commissioning money?



Photography E Fotaki

The Fit for Purpose community training programme from HCVS is back with more free training to develop Hackney's voluntary and community (VCS) organisations. We listened to what people said about last year's training and considered the impact of local developments on the VCS such as commissioning, to come up with a range of courses for 2007 / 2008.

From November 2007, you can get accredited and non-accredited courses, certificates in essential skills such as first aid, modular programmes such as developing social enterprises and commissioning support.

Funded in part by Team Hackney and Hackney council, our training is delivered with partners such as Community Accountancy Project (CAP) and Hackney Training & Employment Network (HTEN). ■

📍 **Check the insert inside this SPARK for dates or contact Zarah Mohobooob** ✉: zarah@hcv.org.uk
🌐: www.hcv.org.uk - Check it out today!

I Quality Focus

HTEN has funding from The City Bridge Trust for an exciting project, Quality Focus, to develop quality standards in the voluntary and community sector (VCS). If you are involved in skills, enterprise development and employment projects in Hackney or in Tower Hamlets, this is an ideal opportunity for professional development leading to an improved quality of service for clients, and could help your chances of securing funding.

The first workshop was attended by groups including a restaurant trust and a community youth organisation. Comments included: "[the trainer] is thoroughly organised and knowledgeable on course contents and inspires confidence", and "I understand more, which I can share with my colleagues." ■

📍 More workshops are planned, contact Paul Conway
🌐: www.hten.org/pages/support_info.php?pageid=5
☎: 020 7249 7669

Talking Legacy



Women and Abolition 07

L - R: Ngozi Headley Fulani MA, Karlene Fontilio and Kio Shalaa

2007 marks the year that Britain commemorates the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Education Africa Teaching (EAT), fundraises for, and organises, visits to Africa for groups of young people so they can learn first hand about the continent and culture.

SPARK spoke to three members of EAT: Ngozi Headley Fulani, Karlene Fontilio and Kio Shalaa about their recent trip to Ghana, in particular their visits to Elmina and Cape Coast castles where enslaved Africans were held. Read about what they thought was the legacy of slavery in London today and why young people are reluctant to get involved.

Visiting slave castles in Ghana

Ngozi Headley Fulani (NHF): At the castle, you find out how slaves were taken from different parts of Africa, and then walked for up to three months or longer. By the time they got to the castle many had died and the rest were exhausted and spiritually low. Men and women were separated, probably never to see each other again. You go into a room where hundreds of men or women were held – they had one air hole and no toilet. For months, they were waiting for a ship lying in piss, shit and

menstrual blood - it's important that it's told without niceness. On the top deck, the European captors looked down and would choose the women they wanted to rape that night.

Kio Shalaa (KS): The woman would be hosed down. If she gave problems, she would have a ball and chain put on her foot and be left to stand there until she died.

Karlene Fontilio (KF): Women would sometimes bash the heads of new babies to kill them because they didn't want them to be enslaved. It was pitch black inside the castle - all you could see when the light hit the wall was blood.

NHF: The stench was still there. You realise your ancestors were probably there. We've taken lots of people there, and when they get to the castle most people break down and cry. I can't put into words how graphic and terrible this thing is.

We say 'we were enslaved', not 'we were slaves' – because it's something that was done to us. We are not trying to make people feel guilty – that's not the purpose but we have to talk about it. I think a lot of people need to visit here. It's not a joke, it's not just something that happened.

Young people and the Bicentenary

KS: Most young people in London don't take it seriously, that's why people use certain words.

KF: Some teenagers don't know themselves, their culture, or where they come from.

KS: The media has a part to play – when I was first going to Africa, I had images from Oxfam campaigns, pot bellies, flies, people living in huts.

NHF: Every year I go into schools and some children won't admit they originate from Africa. Nearly every school has drumming and African dance for Black History Month (BHM). But it's just entertainment, without history – they don't know from where in Africa the dances are from, or what they mean or what a particular cloth symbolises.

KS: I learned some African dance and songs in school. I found later that I was singing songs with a smile on my face, when they were not happy songs.

KF: They were spiritual songs from the plantations.

NHF: There are teachers who are unsure of what to do for Black History Month (BHM) they just put up pictures or put on a show.

Legacy of slavery in London

NHF: I've been teaching about African culture and history for over 25 years. Unfortunately many non-African organisations claim funding for BHM projects, call people like myself to do the work for a small fraction of the money and the people doing the real work get no recognition. So the exploitation continues.

KS: A lot of funding goes to European-based organisations saying they're doing stuff for Africans, when we should be doing stuff for ourselves.

NHF: There is an underlying supposition that they can do and we can't. It's the same mentality as missionaries, and that's how we got to where we are today.

KS: It all comes from Willy Lynch. He was a slave master who wrote tips on how to control slaves – he said 'black men are like horses' and that you should divide light and dark skins, divide and rule.

KF: So some people are ashamed of being dark skinned.

NHF: Women on music videos are often mixed heritage, light skinned or Asian, so a young man looks to that as an ideal. It promotes self hate.

KS: Lots of black girls, like models, are bleaching their skin. It's banned here because of cancer fears, but open any black beauty magazine and every five pages there is an advert for bleaching cream.

NHF: Lighter skinned children are seen as 'cute' or with 'good hair'. We have to see that there is beauty in everyone and that dark skin and thick hair is beautiful also.

In the days of slavery, the lighter skinned (mainly through rape) Africans were often house slaves. Those with darker skins worked in cotton fields. It caused a divide that is still in effect today.

KS: When I was at secondary school, lots of black friends said they wanted to have a lighter skinned boyfriend so their baby would have light skin and curly hair.

KF: 90% of black women straighten their hair.

NHF: Black people are affected to this day; we still have such a hate of each other. Everything about dark is negative. If we are not beautiful, why are so many Europeans having liposuction to make their lips big, and darkening their skin? It's the biggest con. At school I was taught that my features were too African. Now I look in the mirror I think I'm so damn fine, I'm frightened.

We want to hear from you

In the next SPARK we want to hear from Bicentenary projects commemorating in Hackney. Have you had problems finding funding? Has it been difficult getting young black people to take part? Let us know, email gillian@hcv.org.uk

Young people's experiences



Fourteen young people from Hackney went to Ghana with Education Africa Teaching (EAT).

We received support from the community, Team Hackney and the Youth Service. But our young people deserve the most praise for raising the extra funds with door to door collections, raffles to car boot sales.

The visit marked Ghana's 50th anniversary of independence and Britain's Commemoration of Abolition 07. EAT performed at Ghana Emancipation Day as the only official UK young people's group.

Read on for the thoughts of some of the young people who went to Ghana.

We also had to get up early in the mornings and learn skills like washing and ironing, cooking and shopping. Since returning to Britain, I have changed a lot and appreciate my mum more and try to do more things to help her. **Jessica 14 years**

The visit has changed my life for the better, I have learned so much about African history, culture and the people. My mentor Eboni was there for me. I have developed skills that have helped me focus on what is important.

Tiyarna 15years

Being in Ghana has had a big impact on me, good and bad. It was another world you see how people are in England and how they are in Ghana and it is completely different.

Adwoa 14 years

① See page 14 for contacts ■



**Ngozi
Headley-
Fulani MA
Dakrobi Arts**

Black History Month is here again and with it will come a host of activities supposedly designed to enlighten and educate us all. While many manage to achieve that, the truth is that most do not.

For over twenty years I have been fully involved in all aspects of African history, dance, music, storytelling and so on. I have spent just as many years teaching those skills in schools and unfortunately not much has changed with regard to how schools choose to recognise Black History Month. Often schools will put on an entertainment event / performance rather than an educational one. It is not unusual to go a school and see almost identical pictures of the same few black heroes, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X and even Bob Marley.

I have contacted some of the local schools and I am planning a coach trip to the Maritime 'slavery' Museum in Liverpool, both as an inset for teachers and education for the pupils. While providing inset training for teachers, I have learned that many are reluctant to get fully involved with Black History Month as they feel that they do not have enough knowledge or experience.

Over the page are a few basic tips to ensure your Black History Month projects are successful.

Ngozi ■

Black History Month

Black History Month (BHM) runs throughout October every year. Here are some tips from Ngozi for planning educational activities.

- Design a year long event that can be showcased in October
- Read African and African Caribbean newspapers: The Voice, New Nation, The Barbados Nation, Gleaner, African Times etc. available from local shops and on the internet
- Develop a scheme of work or lesson plan of a subject to ensure structured learning
- Get a blank map of Africa and ask children to name the

countries of Africa, put them in their correct location and name the languages of those countries

- Visit Liverpool Maritime 'slavery' museum where inset and other BHM training takes place - Dakrobi can help you
- Get the whole school learning traditional African and African Caribbean songs and learn about their history - Dakrobi can help you
- Get support from the parents and families of the pupils, there is a wealth of knowledge in any one classroom! ■

📍 **Ngozi Headley-Fulani
Dakrobi Arts and Education
Africa Teaching**
☎: 07949 868989
✉: dancemastergozi@aol.com

Black History Month: What's on in Hackney?

Word Power International Black Literature Festival and Book Fair

Word Power acknowledges the literary contributions of people of African descent in the development of both Western literature and civilization.

📍 **Emmanuel Amevor, Centerprise**
🌐: www.centerprisetrust.org.uk



Sam Uriah Morris Society (SUMS) Lectures

Lectures on slavery, the resistance movements, abolition and contemporary black struggles plus the Exhibition of the Contribution of Black People to Civilization.

📍 **Jacqui McKenzie** ☎: 07961 148 568

BlakStok Redemption Songs: Slaves Who Abolished Slavery:

An exhibition about the true heroes and heroines of abolition.
1 - 31 October 2007 @ Hackney Central Library, E8

BlakStok The Great Black History Month Quiz📍: A fascinating and lively quiz for all the family with major prizes to be won.
5.30 - 8.30pm 25 Oct 2007 @ Hackney Central Library, E8

📍 ✉: blakstok@aol.com ☎: 07808 603 499

Hackney Council Black History Month Festival

📍 🌐: www.hackney.gov.uk/black-history-month

📍 **For more events news see our Diary on page 26.**

Ali joins Red Ken to advise on refugee issues



Ali-Riza Aksoy, Chair of Hackney Refugee Forum tells SPARK about his new role on the London Refugee Economic Action

(LORECA) advisory panel.

LORECA is a London Development Agency (LDA) project to support refugees into employment, training and enterprise as part of Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London's Refugee Integration Strategy.

"As a refugee with 30 years experience working with refugees in Hackney and North East London, I will be making the most of this opportunity to raise the priorities and tackle the real needs of London's refugees.

It's important to distinguish the needs of refugees, who have had to leave their home country for fear of persecution from those of an economic migrant who has come to the UK for work. Their needs are very different. Refugee unemployment is estimated to be at least six times the national average.

I feel I may live up to my reputation as a trouble maker but if this is what it takes to get the needs of London's refugees on the agenda I am prepared for it!" ■

Priorities for refugees:

- Employment and training
- Language, culture and religion
- Understanding the UK system to get information and services
- Addressing the impact of refugees' traumatic experiences
- Identifying the specific needs of refugee communities when tackling problems like health.

Priorities for refugee community groups:

- Premises and core funding
- Lack of skilled staff in all areas.

Free Immigration advice

Diaspora provides access to legal advice, information and advocacy on immigration, asylum, welfare, housing employment, health promotion cultural activities. It began in 1995 by refugees from south Sudan wanting to help new arrivals, having been through the process themselves, and seeing an influx of new refugees fleeing the civil war.

In 2004 Diaspora's constitution

was amended to include provision of services to asylum seekers of all nationalities.

Diaspora now offer free immigration advice sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 2pm. You can make an appointment or drop-in to Hackney Central library. The sessions run until 5 December 2007.

Josephine Yanga and Diaspora have moved to HCVS. ☎: 020 7923 8365

✉: enquiries@diaspora.org.uk ■

Hackney Refugee Forum Update

Mental Health is an increasing, although hidden, problem in the Turkish and Kurdish community. Children face bullying and isolation. Depression, violence and suicide are common in adults, particularly young men. Often because of their past experiences in their home country and once they arrive in the UK are unable to find work due to lack of language and knowledge of the UK system.

Asylum seekers face similar problems but this is compounded by the long wait for a Home Office decision on their right to live in the UK. Asylum seekers often wait for years in a situation where they cannot legally work, train or volunteer.

These problems are overlooked by mainstream authorities and hidden within the community as people are reluctant to speak.

Hackney Refugee Forum is holding a meeting to discuss these issues further on **Friday, 26 October 1 - 3pm** at HCVS,

84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street, London E8 2LY. For more information contact Ali as below.

Refugee Fundraisers: We have nine new fundraising specialists for refugee communities. They will start off by helping a few refugee organisations and with experience will help more.

SAVE ESOL: We are organising UK-wide demonstrations against funding cuts for free English classes.

Refugee Centre for Hackney: Unfortunately our bid to the Big Lottery for a Refugee Centre in Hackney was rejected at the final stage. We are going to find alternative funders and do everything necessary to have a local hub for refugee organisations.

Capacity Builders: We have finished our survey on needs of refugee individuals and organisations. We will report on the results in the next SPARK.

Hackney Refugee Forum

☎: 020 7923 1962

✉:

info@hackneyrefugeeforum.org.uk ■



Hackney's young reporters on real life

Young people under the age of 18 make up over a quarter of the people living in Hackney and they are a huge focus of plans to improve life in the borough. There's a lot of talk about giving young people the opportunity to express themselves, SPARK spoke to three community magazines written by and for young people in Hackney: **One Voice**, **Viva Youth** and **Contrast**.



One Voice
by The Crib.
Interview with
Janette Collins,
left, manager of
The Crib

One Voice has been going since 2001. It's young people led, they come up with all the ideas and the design, we just show them how to use the IT programmes.

They write about the here and now, what's going on in their lives today and what affects them. We attach young people to other

projects we're running – so they write about those too and we have an agony aunt feature.

Each issue costs us about £1,300 to print and we pay the tutor for eight hours a week. Our funders have included Hackney Youth Service and Awards for All. We print 1,000 copies and young people distribute 'One Voice' by handing it out on the streets and taking it to youth clubs.

It shocks me that what's going on is affecting young people so much – they give a big bad exterior, but it touches them very deeply. One young person wrote about being on [electronic] tag – you wouldn't think that would affect him, but it did, it was life changing.

A lot of young people who write for our magazine are from the street – they don't access mainstream youth clubs. They'll write one piece when they have something to say, then they don't want to do it again. >>

One young person wrote about being on [electronic] tag – you wouldn't think that would affect him, but it did, it was life changing.

Janette Collins

In the first year we produced six issues for £3,000 – this didn't even cover the copying costs, so the young people were contributing £3 or £4 each a week. This year we have £6,000 for six issues.

Ibrahim Avcil

Young people take part in the editorial meetings and we encourage them to bring their own ideas and to carry them through. They've written about music, gangs, sport, body mind and spirit, as well as their own stories.

Vicky Hughes and David Floyd



Viva Youth by Refugee Workers Cultural Association (RWCA). Interview with Ibrahim Avcil, left,

Volunteer Co-ordinator, Youth Commission of RWCA

We realised young people are facing many problems which they cannot express. They are stuck between the Turkish or Kurdish culture and that of the UK and don't feel belonging to either. Their families are not able to understand or solve this, so young people find alternative routes. They start using drugs or missing school because they don't feel they belong, and they join gangs so that they can feel they do belong.

The RWCA Youth Committee, which is made up of 12 to 23 year olds, decided to produce and publish a magazine. We wanted young people to freely express themselves so other members of community could understand and help, and for the young people to feel belonging to the magazine.

The first issue came out in June 2006. We printed 300 copies and found there was good interest from both young people and the wider community. After a few issues we increased to printing 1,000 copies with support from the Local Network Fund and HCVS. In the first year we produced six issues for £3,000. This didn't even cover the copying costs, so the young people were contributing £3 or £4 each a week. This year we have £6,000 for six issues.

Young people have contributed articles about global warming, guns and gangs, career choices and parental pressure, as well as

creative writing. They distribute Viva Youth in libraries, schools and shops, and amongst themselves.



Contrast by Social Spider, interview with Vicky Hughes, left, Deputy Editor and David Floyd, Managing Director

We were commissioned by Hackney council's Youth Opportunities Fund to produce six issues of a local young people's magazine between January 2007 and March 2008. Our magazine is called Contrast and first came out in April 2007. The contract is £55,000 for a year, a lot is for youth development work which takes time. We teach journalism skills, editing and laying out pages to groups of young people around Hackney.

Young people take part in the editorial meetings and we encourage them to work on their own ideas. They've written about music – pop, hip hop and R&B - gangs, sport, body mind and spirit, as well as their own stories. We've also included photo stories about sexual health, an interview with top local poets, quizzed local councillors and reported on youth events in the local area.

We hold two open editorial sessions a week as well as working with some particular groups, these include Looked After Children and the Hackney Youth Parliament. Over the summer we held up to five sessions a week, at other times we do regular outreach sessions.

We print 5,000 copies of Contrast Magazine and it's distributed through youth clubs, schools and voluntary youth groups. ■

i Find out more

Maybe you want to subscribe, have an idea for a story or know some young people who would like to join up. We would also like to hear from similar projects, email gillian@hcv.org.uk

One Voice

Work on next issue of One Voice will be starting soon – contact Janette for dates.

The Crib

1-16 Benyon Court
De Beauvoir Estate
Balmes Road London N1 5TJ

☎: 020 7254 4731

Viva Youth

Last month's issue just came out, contact Ibrahim to get involved on the next issue.

Ibrahim Avcil
Refugee Workers Cultural Association
Unit C1, 3 – 19 Victorian Grove, London N16 8EN

☎: 020 7249 9983

☎: 07859 383 027

✉: IbrahimAvcil@hotmail.com

Social Spider

Open editorial meetings are held at:

- **Thursdays at 4.30pm**

Cityzen, Unit 202 Mare Street Studios, 203-213 Mare Street, E8 3QE

- **Tuesdays at 4.30pm**

Sky Partnership, Unit 2, 222 Kingsland Rd E2 8AX

Social Spider
Unit 3N, Leroy House
436 Essex Road
London N1 3QP

✉: info@socialspider.com

☎: 020 7359 7295

🌐: www.socialspider.com

Women in Prison Reform

City and Hackney Mind have produced leading work into tackling mental health issues for women in prisons. This resulted in a successful meeting at the House of Commons when over sixty activists, experts and politicians met to develop a way forward.

Attendees included Juliet Lyon, head of the Prison Reform Trust, an important advocacy group, Baroness Jean Corston who is author of the Corston Report, a powerful and highly regarded document concerning the state of female offenders in the criminal justice system. As well as Lorely Burt MP, a former prison officer and expert on the current system.

Suggestions included:

- Increased funding for specialist hospitals to deal with the mentally ill and provide holistic treatment
- Continued opposition to the mental health bill.

What comes next in the campaign is unknown. Krishna Maharaj, organiser of the meeting and the campaign so far, hopes that the Prison Reform Trust and National Mind would lead this. With their experience and expertise they offer the most capable leadership. Considering the ever growing public discontent with the prison service as a whole, a new national leadership and the approaching general elections, success is definitely in reach. The public needs to make its voice heard. ■

For a copy of the meeting report contact Krishna Maharaj

☎ : 0208 525 2306

✉:

krishna.maharaj@cityandhackney
mind.org.uk ■

Supplementary Success

Noel Harris-Brown and David Reece, two African Caribbean GCSE students who attended a Clapton based supplementary school for two years celebrated GCSE success in August.

Vital Education, Enterprise & Training Ltd formerly Clapton NTCG Supplementary School offers support to primary and secondary school pupils attending in Hackney. In addition, we offer educational support to adults such as parents as well as enterprise and training support to African / African-Caribbean groups.

📍 **Seymour Mattis** ✉: csseducation_97@hotmail.co.uk

Are you a supplementary school in Hackney?

HCVS is developing the Hackney Supplementary Schools network on behalf of The Learning Trust. If you would like to join and benefit from extra support email Kristine Wellington ✉: kristine@hcv.org.uk

Therapeutic Art Games for Children

Children and young people come packed with a range of unique ideas and energy. Mention the words games and creativity and children immediately become a captive audience. Eileen Bellot from Hands Inc, updates SPARK on their pilot Therapeutic Art Games project with Stoke Newington Secondary School and Rushmore Primary School, funded by the Local Network Fund.

At Hands Inc our aim is to link hands across the community by offering innovative holistic health activities. With the Therapeutic Art Games project, we aimed to reach children and young adults to develop and test a series of art games based around issues that affect their sense of emotional wellbeing and levels of achievement.

The themes around the games were deliberately chosen to allow them a safe space to start to explore and decipher their particular concerns. Themes such as peer pressure, guns and crime, bullying, divorce and economic deprivation are all



Photography E Fotaki

Space for expression

issues that concern young people living in Hackney today. The Local Area Agreement for Hackney places improving the lives of young people high on their agenda because of the high levels of deprivation and numbers of those not in education or training (NEET), so our work fits well.

The schools were very supportive, giving us time and space to make the project a success. Before we started we were told that the children we would be working with never had anything to show. We put on an exhibition of the children's work and presenting them with certificates of achievement. This was a testament to the children who took part and was proof that they had much to show and be proud of. ■

📍 **Hands Inc**

☎ : 0208 8806 9699

✉: handsinc@handsinc.co.uk

Parenting: Why the model doesn't always work

Photography E Fotaki



By Algin Saydar, left, Executive Director, Derman and Chair, Children & Young People's Providers Forum (CYPPF)

One of the most important factors in determining children's future well-being is how parents do their jobs as parents. To this end, parenting programmes were introduced. They are focused short-term interventions aimed at improving the quality of the parent-child relationship by improving family functioning and the emotional and behavioural adjustment of children.

There are several parenting programmes, two that are widely used in Britain are the Webster Stratton model and the Respect Parenting Programme. The Stratton model aims to "reduce conduct problems in children" while the Respect model attempts "to tackle bad behaviour and nurture good". Both are about modifying unwanted behaviour in children and young people.

Parenting is much more than behaviour modification. Parents also act as providers, protectors, guides and teachers, problem

solvers and mediators, managers and transmitters of cultural values.

Some cultures place importance on individualism or independence and others on collectivism or interdependence. Britain is an example of independent and individualistic culture while Kurdish / Turkish cultures are interdependent and collectivist cultures.

- Cultures that focus on developing independence in children value parenting strategies that provide structure while being available, involved, warm, and sensitive. Examples are using time outs or explaining why hitting is wrong. Children are encouraged to think about their behaviour and learn about limits.
- Cultures that focus on developing interdependence in children use strategies such as shaming, to control children's behaviour rather than giving them choices and time to think. These strategies encourage respect for elders and authority figures.
- In cultures that focus on developing interdependence, all members are responsible for all children in the community, not just their own. In independent cultures, the core family unit is usually the authority when it

Parenting for refugee families is not only different because they come from a culture that encourages interdependence and collectivism. It is different also because they themselves have to learn about the system here.

comes to decisions about parenting and child rearing.

Parenting for refugee families is not only different because they come from a culture that encourages interdependence and collectivism. It is different also because they themselves have to learn about the system here. British parents are born into this society and don't have to learn about the British system to parent. Turkish and Kurdish children need to be brought up with the values that they need to function - not only within the immediate family circle, but also within the Turkish/Kurdish speaking community and then in the wider context of British society. This makes parenting more challenging and complicated for Kurdish and Turkish parents. Derman, therefore, offers parenting classes based on a model devised specifically with this, and voiced needs and views of Kurdish, Turkish parents, in mind.

Algin is also a Community Empowerment Network Voluntary Sector Representative for the Hackney Children & Young People's Strategic Board.

📍 **DERMAN**

☎ : 0207 613 5944

✉ : services@derman.org.uk ■



MP Meg Hillier and Deputy Mayor Jamie Carswell @ Peace Walk



One Love Hackney festival @ Clissold Park, inset Bobby Kray



Dave Ramdial, left, from HCVS Youth Futures team talks to SPARK about One Love Hackney – A Week of Civic Pride.

Cambodia, Youth Inclusion Project and Anatolia Nehir – a renowned Turkish / Kurdish band. Later on, came performances by Tayo Cruise, Bobby Kray, Jamakabi, Naomi McLernon and The Sony TV Bollywood UK Champions The Flash Angels.



Hackney Play Association

HCVS would like to say a massive **THANK YOU** to everyone who made One Love Hackney so successful.

During the week of 9 – 16 September, we celebrated Peace Week with a series of events to inspire us all to respect our surroundings and be proud of Hackney.

One Love Hackney officially launched on Sunday, 9 September with the One Love Hackney Peace Walk from Gillett Square in Dalston to the One Love Festival in Clissold Park, Stoke Newington.

Our very own Gary Francis and Dean Wallace, pictured bottom right, along with Choice FM DJs Phoebe 1, Martin J and Hotsteppa were our hosts for the day. They entertained the crowd in between community acts including Hackney Empire, the Community Centre for Refugees from Vietnam, Laos and

As well as music there was a career and training exhibition for young people, family activities and food and drink. 1000 Faces, our photography project about people who work, live and play in Hackney was projected across the park on the big screen - maybe you saw someone you knew?

Hackney's community groups continued the celebrations with a variety of community projects funded by the small grants programme from Team Hackney. Activities included music and sports competitions, advice and guidance sessions, arts workshops and the Robert Levy Foundation Inspiration talent showcase and career show. Read on for a selection of these events.

One Love Hackney was funded by Team Hackney and organised by HCVS with support from the Metropolitan Police and Hackney council. >>



Anatolia Nehir



The Crib T-shirt enterprise



HCVS Dean & Gary with Phoebe 1



Clockwise from top left: Tohum Cultural Centre, Hackney Empire, Nida Trust, The Sony TV Bollywood UK Champions The Flash Angels, CAT and IEWO millennium party, VLC Centre, CAT and IEWO with Councillor Faizullah Khan, HCVS' Kristine Wellington with MDMD Arts talent, Naomi McLernon,

Autumn delight for VLC Centre

Special guest Councillor Faizullah Khan - Speaker of Hackney, opened the Mid Autumn Festival at Community Centre for Refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos (VLC Centre) on 15 September.

Next, came an explosion of talent with traditional dancing, martial arts, Thai-fit and personal testimonies from people from the three communities: Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Children from the VLC Centre's supplementary school were presented with certificates of their educational successes and goodie bags.

Everyone was treated to great Vietnamese food and goat curry and afterwards karaoke for the brave!

Ethiopian Millenium

Centre for Advice and Training together with International Ethiopian Women's Organisation took the Ethiopian millenium as inspiration for their One Love Hackney – A Week of Civic Pride celebrations.

At Fellows Court Community Hall, traditional cuisine was served followed by entertainment and dancing accompanied by the Masimko and the Kirar – two Ethiopian string instruments.

Ethiopia uses the calendar of the Coptic Orthodox Church - which means the year 2000 began at midnight on 13 September 2007. This is because in the 16th Century, the Roman Church revised its estimate of the date of the birth of Christ - but Ethiopia kept the old date.

Discussing faith

Scores of people attended the Nida Trust's Inter-Faith Conference at the North London Muslim Community Centre.

After a welcome from the Speaker, Cllr Faizullah Khan, and an introductory speech by Rev. Marjorie Brown, the conference attendees split into different workshops to discuss issues faced by the different faith communities in the borough.

The key issues discussed were around poverty and diversity. Everyone agreed this was a unique opportunity - encouraging people to come together because of their shared concerns rather than being divided due to fear of difference.

① Download the conference video from www.nidatrust.org.uk

Welcome to the Better Homes Network update, the network represents and supports tenants and residents in Hackney.

About Better Homes Network

Better Homes Network (BHN) is made up of tenants and residents and aims to represent their views to Team Hackney. BHN wants to create a better living environment and make information about housing issues more accessible and clear.

BHN is linked to the work of Team Hackney's Better Homes multi-agency board and its sub-boards via BHN's two Community Empowerment Network representatives: Les Moore and Wayne Hinks.

On Fellows Court and St Mary's estates, BHN set up meetings to discuss the needs of young people with residents and potential funders. This led to the setting up of Fun@Fellows in May 2007. This provided two new sessions for young people based in the community centre, managed by the Tenants and Residents Association (TRA), Hackney Play Association and Haggerston Youth Inclusion Programme, and supported by Hackney Homes.

In our current meetings, residents are discussing the new arrangements for tenant involvement and the implications of Hackney Homes not achieving 2 star-rating.

Hackney Homes – One star rating by Audit Commission

On 9 August, the Audit Commission published its report on the work of Hackney Homes – and found it to be a one star service. In failing to meet the



In failing to meet the minimum two star rating, Hackney will not now receive the £225 million of government funding it identified as being needed to bring the housing stock up to Decent Homes standard.

minimum two star rating, Hackney will not now receive the £225 million of government funding it identified as being needed to bring the housing stock up to Decent Homes standard.

Following their inspections in spring this year, the Audit Commission praised Hackney Homes for the customer focus, the equalities and diversity strategy and the increased number of homes reaching Decent Homes standard through partnered capital arrangements.

However they identified 12 areas requiring improvement, including lack of service standards and high level of complaints about repairs, disorganisation in the repairs service, high levels of rent arrears, concerns in support for vulnerable tenants and action in harassment cases. Resident involvement was described as “not well developed with low levels of satisfaction at 53 per cent”.

Chief Executive Steve Tucker has now left Hackney Homes and it is unclear how Hackney will reach the Decent Homes standard by 2010.



① Copies of the report from the Audit Commission www.audit-commission.gov.uk or call 0845 056 0566.

New arrangements for Tenant Involvement

September brought the introduction of Hackney Homes reformed structure for tenant involvement - based on factors identified by the Audit Commission, and the consultation with tenants.

Tenants will now be represented at estate level by Enhanced TRAs, taking on some work of the old Estate Committees. No admin support will be provided by Hackney Homes, though estate managers are expected to attend regularly and some capacity support is available. The Hackney wide Tenants Convention will be replaced with a Resident Liaison Group to include leaseholders and under-represented groups, as well as tenant representatives.

The end of the Tenants Convention will save Hackney Homes £40,000 a year, and Estate Committees £20,000 a year. ■

① More information:

Better Homes Network

c/o HCVS

84 Springfield House

5 Tyssen Street

London E8 2LY

☎: 020 7923 8180

✉: admin@betterhomesnetwork.org.uk

🌐: www.betterhomesnetwork.org.uk

Commissioning - A change of scene?

Commissioning is a big issue for the voluntary and community sector (VCS) but for many groups it remains unknown territory. SPARK reports on commissioning, how it's been working so far in Hackney and spoke to two VCS groups to get their views.

What is commissioning?

Commissioning is one of the ways the government will finance the VCS to deliver public services designed to meet local needs.

Different to grant funding in many ways, projects delivered through commissioning are based on specific priorities or outcomes that meet Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets for the borough.

Once the priorities have been set and a timescale agreed, the commissioners such as Team Hackney and The Learning Trust invite VCS groups to submit a bid to win a contract to deliver that specific public service.

Commissioning in Hackney - What's next?

This year Team Hackney has commissioned £26m of activities. In the next month, Team Hackney will go live with a searchable database of all commissioned activity on their website - www.teamhackney.org

A number of commissioning opportunities for the VCS around tackling childhood obesity, reducing health inequality and pilot volunteering projects will shortly be available - look out for the email notices from HCVS.

Partnership working

VCS groups are being encouraged to join up and work together in partnerships or consortiums to win these contracts. Ideally, this helps smaller organisations to continue to deliver services they are good at whilst benefiting from the support of larger organisations in getting more funding.

Being part of a partnership or consortium may be preferred by many commissioners but it's not necessarily an easy thing for smaller groups. It will require more time to administrate and prepare bids and less direct contact with funders.

Changing priorities

An area of concern is VCS groups whose client group or specialist area falls outside what the LAA wants to fund. VCS groups should not start changing their funding priorities to meet commissioning aims.

Commissioners are becoming more aware of the needs of the VCS, particularly smaller groups who find commissioning difficult. Team Hackney's commissioning process is being reviewed. If you have a view please contact Anna O'Brien, the new CEN Co-Ordinator at anna@hcv.org.uk - meet Anna on page 28.

Your bottom line

Full Cost Recovery means VCS organisations must consider all the costs of a project. Find out more in the *doc* on page 33.

Over the page read how two Hackney VCS groups have found commissioning so far. >>

Jargon Buster: Commissioning

A breakdown of the common terms used in this article.

Commissioning:

The three-part process by which the needs of the local population are identified, priorities are set and appropriate services are purchased and evaluated.

Consortium:

A group of individuals or organisations that come together to form a partnership to undertake an activity that would be beyond the capabilities of the individual members.

Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ):

Document where you show your organisation's capacity to deliver the service. For example, the right staff, insurance, financial management system etc.

Invitation to Tender:

Document produced by commissioner outlining specification or what is required from the service.

Procurement: The process by which tenders are advertised and contracts awarded.

How can I get support?

HCVS and the Community Empowerment Network are working with local commissioners to help the sector prepare for commissioning and supporting VCS groups with information and training. We circulate news through SPARK, HCVS Email and Mail-Outs.

Sign up for news, contact Gillian: ✉ gillian@hcv.org.uk

Shoreditch Council for Voluntary Youth Service (SCVYS) is a partnership of young people's organisations in Shoreditch who were successful in young people's services commissioning. SPARK interviewed Joe Ahmed-Dobson, SCVYS Co-Ordinator.

What is SCVYS?

Hackney council commissioned National Council of Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) to propose how to improve Youth Services by working with community groups. Shoreditch Trust put up 12 months funding to get a Shoreditch network and SCVYS was launched. I've been in the post since December 2006.

When we set up we decided to:

- co-ordinate and plan young people's activities in Shoreditch
- provide a voice for young people's VCS groups when negotiating with the council and health authority
- increase opportunities to improve quality of services.

Who can join SCVYS?

Anyone providing any service to young people in Shoreditch.

What was the outcome for SCVYS from the youth services commissioning?

Fifteen of our 30 members took part in four bids, one for Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) and three for Constructive Activities for Young People (CAYP). PAYP is for out of school activities and events during the school holidays for young people aged 8 to 19, CAYP is for daytime activities.

Member organisations sat down together and decided what they wanted to do and then I filled in the forms. Some groups wanted to submit their own bids, and

some took part in the collective bid and also submitted their own for separate activities.

Team Hackney picked the best bits out of the bids as there were particular projects they wanted to fund. Almost everyone got something from PAYP, but only one in three were successful from CAYP.

Estate based projects and small organisations which have never previously received funding from statutory bodies were successful with PAYP. They had Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks and no problem delivering the service because they had been doing it for years. But they needed support to demonstrate the quality of their service for monitoring.

What have you learnt from this round of commissioning?

With more time, we would have submitted one large bid, rather than one split into projects A,B and C.

The voluntary sector needs to get used to genuinely working together. Not just notional partnerships, but sharing costs and staff to deliver the best services. Commissioners need to get used to working with us too, looking at the activity provided and seeing if it is value for money, rather than trying to manage parts of several projects.

Who are the winners and losers?

Groups who want to work on their own will lose out in the long term. It's easier for commissioners if they can find a consortium, as they deal with just one contact person. This should be positive for a local network which can then have more say over what is provided.

The time investment can be a problem. One of the estate youth club workers came to our meetings in his own time but he got £8,000 over the summer to develop their project.

There are other benefits for larger groups. One of our partners said that since he knows that the quality of our bid will be high, being part of the network saves him time preparing his own bid. The network is only good as the person it employs, and that is for the members to decide.

Do you think networks like SCVYS are the way forward?

Team Hackney and the council have been very supportive of Youth Networks and recognise the long term benefits. But they and HCVS - who provide support for the VCS - need to agree how they're going to support their development. You can't have the benefits of partnership without developing the groups' capacity.

What will happen to SCVYS?

We found three months extra funding. When the current flurry of commissioning dies down, there'll be time to look at that.

What advice would you give to someone setting up a network like this?

Keep the lines of communication open with all the members – even when you get busy writing bids. continued over the page >>



Laburnum Boat Club: A project funded by SCVYS

SPARK spoke to Diane Pungartnik, Director Hackney Modern, an arts organisation in Stamford Hill who feels that the current commissioning process bypasses smaller VCS groups.

Why did you set up Hackney Modern?

I'm a tenant on Stamford Hill estate, back in 1998 I found there was no provision for children and young people's activities, like football, homework clubs, nothing. So I set up an art club, a homework club, and in 2006 opened my own centre – Hackney Modern and then, seeing the need from the kids, started a football club. We got funding from Hackney council and Southern Housing Foundation. Now I have a turnover of £45,000 a year and 300 kids from across North Hackney registered with me.

What has been your experience with commissioning?

I feel commissioning excludes small community groups because of the sheer amount of administration you need to do. It privileges larger organisations - you need money to pay a full time administrator!

What if you included this cost in your tender?

I would. But what do I do when the amount I will be given to run the service remains the same as before? We have the same number of children so need the same number of youth workers. Once you have paid them there's nothing left for admin, running costs etc.

What about joining a network like SCVYS?

A network is suitable for very small groups who need someone to lead them. But for those of us in the middle who are small but running a large programme very competently, we don't need that kind of help. If I was funded I would be happy to lead a network – I have the skills and experience, I just don't have the funding to put the time to it.

You have started a campaign to make commissioning more accessible for smaller community groups - tell us more?

No one is disputing that we have to meet outcomes but I would like commissioners, like Hackney council and Team Hackney, to understand how difficult it is for VCS groups to do what they expect them to do.

One idea would be to run a streamed / stratified commissioning process with monies for small and large groups, and make sure there are funds for admin. I'm meeting with various councillors and council officers to work out a way forward. ■

📞 Diane Pungartnik 📞: 020 8806 2519

>> continued from page 24

And realise that you can't please all of the people all of the time!

📞 Joe Ahmed-Dobson
SCVYS

📞: 020 7253 1010

✉: joe@ncvys.org.uk

The Youth Service is developing three more neighbourhood youth service networks in Hackney. If you are interested in this please email gillian@hcv.org.uk for more information.

📌 Tips for writing a tender:

- **Be specific:** Don't use vague or general statements.
- **Less can be more:** a good bid can only be six pages.
- **Address the requirements:** As set out in the invitation to tender - in the order in which they appear.
- **Clearly state the outcomes:** not just the outputs, you will deliver. This should include numbers - for example the number of people entering sustained employment, not just the number of people trained.
- **Know your outcomes:** Try putting yourself in the shoes of the commissioners, and think about what information they would need to show how they are meeting their priorities. For example, with a mental health support project, can you show how many of your users are also using statutory mental health services.
- **A clear budget is essential:** Value for money is a focus: your unit costs may be calculated and compared with other bids. Think about your real costs for delivering this project and account for all of them.
- **Timeframes and deadlines are inflexible;** it is not possible to change a submission after the deadline.
- If a **presentation or interview** is part of the assessment process please prepare well – stick to the outcomes and the tender requirements.
- Get to know **Full Cost Recovery** and account for all your costs - see *doc* on page 33 for more.

Autumn Diary

Here's a list of events, meetings and workshops throughout Autumn. For more information subscribe to HCVS email news service, contact Gillian Trevethan ✉: gillian@hcv.s.org.uk

October

1 - 31 Oct: Redemption Songs: Slaves Who Abolished Slavery Exhibition

@ Hackney Museum Reading Lane E8
☎: 07808 603 499 ✉: blakstok@aol.com

1 - 31 Oct: Word Power International Black Literature Festival and Book Fair

☎: 020 7254 9632
🌐: www.centerprisetrust.org.uk

6 - 14 Oct: Family Learning Week

🌐: www.learningtrust.co.uk

8 Oct, 6.30 - 9pm: Sam Uriah Morris Society (SUMS) Lecture: Richard Hart

@ Harriet Tubman House, Lower Clapton Road E5
☎: Jacqui McKenzie 07961 148 568

8 Oct 9.30 - 5pm: Disability Capital 2007

@ ExCel Centre E16 1XL
✉: DisabilityCapital@london.gov.uk

10 Oct 10am - 2.30pm: Hackney Mental Health Awareness Day

@ SPACE Centre, Hackney Community College, Falkirk Street
🌐: www.tcch.ac.uk

11 Oct 1.30 - 2.30pm: Bringing The Child Out in Adults, Universal Board Games

@ HCVS 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street E8
🌐: www.learningtrust.co.uk

12 Oct 1.30pm: Launch of The Makeda Weaver Resettlement Project Against Gangs, Guns and Violence

@ The Emirates Stadium, Islington
✉: sjoseph@shian.org.uk ☎: 07803 270009

12 Oct 12.30 - 2.30pm: Getting the Most Out of Fruits, East London Food Access

@ HCVS as above 🌐: www.learningtrust.co.uk

12 Oct 2.30 - 4.30pm: Family Heritage Hunt NubianJak

@ HCVS as above and CLR James Library 🌐: www.learningtrust.co.uk

13 / 27 Oct/ 10 Nov 1pm & 2.15pm: Pedal Power's Bike Maintenance Course

@ Pedal Power Bike Club, Finsbury Park
✉: therese@thebikeproject.org.uk

15 Oct 6.30 - 9pm: SUMS Lecture: Andrew

Mohammed @ As above

16 Oct 12 - 3pm: BME Play Network Group

@ Hackney Play Association, All Saints Centre, Haggerston Road, London E8
☎: 0207 254 9944

17 Oct 9.30 - 1pm: Enterprise Development and Social Inclusion in Hackney - HTEN

@ Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre, E8
☎: 020 7249 7669 ✉: projects@hten.org

19 Oct Annual Club Wellness Interborough Games for people aged 55+

@ Newham Leisure Centre ☎: 07951 789388 ✉: claire.ruocco@gll.org

22 Oct 07 6.30 -9pm: SUMS Lecture: David Udo

@ As before

24 Oct Table Tennis Championships

10am-1pm U12's / 1pm-3pm U16's Tournament
@ Hackney Free & Parochial School, Paragon Rd, E9
☎: 020 7686 8812 ☎: 07903 957674

25 Oct 5.30 - 8pm: The Great Black History Month Quiz for the whole family

@ Hackney Museum Reading Lane E8
☎: 07808 603 499 ✉: blakstok@aol.com

25 Oct 10 - 4pm: Quality of Life - Are we getting it? 7th Older People's Reference Group meeting

@ Hackney Free & Parochial School, Paragon Road
☎: 020 7241 5906

26 Oct 07 1-3pm: Hackney Refugee Forum Mental Health Issues meeting

@ HCVS, 84 Springfield House 5 Tyssen Street, E8
☎: 020 7923 1962
✉: info@hackneyrefugeeforum.org.uk

November

6 Nov 10 - 6pm: East London Play Conference

@ Oxford House Derbyshire Street E2 6HG
✉: majeda@playtowerhamlets.org.uk
☎: 020 7729 3306

African Community School: Family Learning

9 Oct, 4 - 6pm: Financial Literacy Workshop

10 Oct, 4 - 6pm: Family Board Games Activities

10 & 11 Oct, 4 - 6pm: Family Creative Craft Workshop,

📍 All at Princess May Primary School, Princess May Road, N16 ☎: 0845 0034 226 ☎: 07863 234 832

What did you do this summer?

Summer 2007 may have been a wash-out weather wise, but Hackney's community groups made sure people didn't miss out. Here are some postcards from Hackney's summer projects.

❶ **The Bike Project** with **Dalston Youth Project** held three Earn-a-Bike bike maintenance courses during August for young people from Hackney Downs. One of the young people on the course said, 'I don't live round here but I came and really enjoyed it - they should have it in more places.' The workshops were funded by the London Cycling Campaign's Community Cycling Fund.

❶ **Therese Kilpatrick**

✉:

therese@thebikeproject.org.uk

❷ July brought the fourth **Laburnum Street Party**, which calls for the re-opening of Haggerston Pool. MOBO winners Korus performed and there was pop, gospel, reggae, jazz, folk acts. And a cross dressed string quartet, street, Irish, Vietnamese, Chinese and belly dancers.

❶ **Liz Hughes**

✉: info@haggerstonpool.com

❸ Cllr Ian Rathbone, Deputy Speaker of Hackney attends the Evelyn Court estate Fun Day organised by **ECAT** in August.

❶ **Maggie Cooke**

☎: 0207 249 5913

❹ Fourteen people from **City and Hackney Mind User Group** go to Kew Gardens, finding it to be a relaxing, informative, therapeutic and rewarding day.

❶ **Krishna Maharaj**

☎: 0208 525 2306

❺ Children performing at **International Dance and Music Centre** Turkish and Kurdish folk dance competition.

❶ **Mehmet Karakus**

☎: 0208 800 7380

❻ Thirty-two people from **Hackney Caribbean Elderly Organisation** spent a week in Weymouth. The sun shined and they enjoyed trips to Poole Harbour and the seaside town of Swanage.

❶ **Edward Clayton**

☎: 0207 923 3536

❼ **Diaspora** held a Raising Mental Health Awareness Day in July. With presentations and discussions aimed at early identification and support of mental illness, and its de-stigmatisation.

❶ **Josephine Yanga** ☎: 020 7923 8365

❽ Lag Bo-mer held a Unity Carnival for the Jewish community in Stamford Hill.

❶ **Lieba Tiefenbrun**

☎: 020 8806 8632

❾ Kids model their screen printed clothes at **Songololo Feet's** end of workshop fashion show at Pembury Estate.

❶ **Durrah Mahmood**

✉: durrahadams@hotmail.com

Send a picture of your Autumn event for the next SPARK, email gillian@hcv.org.uk ■



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New faces for CEN



Introducing Anna O'Brien, the new Co-Ordinator for Hackney's Community Empowerment Network (CEN).

Hello, this is my first Community Empowerment Network (CEN) update for SPARK. I started as CEN Co-Ordinator a month ago and I am looking forward to working with as many of you as possible, see recap below. I've enjoyed bumping into people who I haven't seen since the 90s when I worked in a number of Hackney's voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. Since then I've worked in the NHS on community development, health inequalities, public and patient involvement, and commissioning. A large part of my NHS work has always involved working with the VCS.

A Recap

I'll probably do this in each article, because I know it can be a challenge sometimes to understand the roles of different initiatives. Team Hackney is the strategic partnership which enables all of our different statutory and non statutory



Ready Steady Go: The new CEN reps with HCVS and Team Hackney staff

organisations to work together. Statutory organisations such as the health service, the council, and the police, and non statutory organisations such as the VCS, housing associations and businesses.

The CEN's job is to enable Hackney's VCS, plus its tenant organisations and faith groups to be part of Team Hackney, so that means being part of the decision making process in Hackney. That's decisions on spending; on how services are delivered; on policy; on how different organisations work together and on planning for the future.

Whether you're new to strategy or got tired of getting nowhere trying to influence things years ago, I'm asking you to work with your CEN reps and me to see what we can do.

Team Hackney has five partnerships covering:

- children and young people
- health
- housing
- economic development
- safety and the environment (joined in one partnership). Each partnership will be, or already is, supported by a linked VCS network.

The CEN gets funded because Team Hackney knows the VCS has valuable ideas and solutions for making these five partnerships work. As part of its support to the CEN, Team Hackney also funds the CEN community grants programme, which this year is £750k.

Although the CEN is a separate organisation, it is based in HCVS, and some HCVS staff deliver parts of its work.

More CEN Representatives

We are increasing the number of CEN reps, currently 17, on Team Hackney's five partnerships. The

New Look Community Empowerment Network

From left to right: Melanie Danan, Mary Cannon, Bisi Ojuri, Vee Ivanhoe, Sonia Khan, Algin Saydar, Asher Eisens, Taylan Sahbaz, Wayne Hincks, Gary Francis

Not pictured: Aliya El Agib, Les Moore, Nazima Osman, Catriona Scott, Sheila Ramdular

CEN Support Staff: Gillian Trevethan, Jake Ferguson, Niall Sweby, Elizabeth Adebola



CEN reps are part of the five multi-agency partnerships and the VCS networks that support each partnership. The second round of recruitment took place over the summer via SPARK and other publicity, and I'm working with Team Hackney to finish this.

Your reps are accountable to you and are there to represent your views. They need your organisation or network's input into the VCS networks that support each of the five partnerships, to do their job.

Issues the CEN were working on this summer...

- Working with Team Hackney staff to set agendas for the five multi-agency partnerships
- Developing work programmes for the VCS networks that work with each of the five partnerships
- Strengthening the VCS networks / CEN's role
- Providing training for the VCS on public sector commissioning
- Looking at volunteering issues getting incorporated into policy
- Highlighting the educational needs of Kurdish/Turkish children and young people
- How the VCS networks can represent the diverse populations they serve, e.g. young people
- Ways the VCS networks / CEN reps will input into the update of the Local Area Agreement
- Thinking about how the VCS and CEN reps can involve local people in Team Hackney
- Highlighting how the VCS can help meet the government's neighbourhood renewal objectives. ■

Get In Touch: In future articles, I'll explain more about how this works. Contact me if your organisation or network isn't yet involved in one or more of these five VCS networks.

📍 **Anna O'Brien** 📞: 020 7923 1962
✉: anna@hcv.org.uk

Community portraits of success



Speaker applauds exhibition

L-R: Gillian Trevethan, HCVS, Les Moore, Chair of the CEN, Cllr Faizullah Khan, Effie Fotaki and Jake Ferguson, HCVS

Community in Portrait, the CEN's photographic exhibition of Hackney's community projects opened to praise from Councillor Faizullah Khan, the Speaker of Hackney council.

At a private view of the exhibition in July, Cllr Khan said 'it reflects the diversity of Hackney in action and at the same time gives a strong impression of community cohesion which is an essential ingredient of peace and harmony enjoyed by our borough. The Speaker joined HCVS and guests from Team Hackney, the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) and the voluntary and community sector.

The exhibition marks the achievement of community projects awarded funding by the Community Investment Programme, Team Hackney's previous small grants scheme. Projects included Therapeutic Art Games by Hands Inc. who worked with children from two Hackney schools to develop a series of art games based around issues that affect their sense of emotional wellbeing and levels of achievement - see page 18 for this story.

Thank you to HCVS Grants Team and everyone who featured in and supported our exhibition which ran throughout August at HCVS, Hackney Central and CLR James libraries. Effie Fotaki, a Hackney based photographer produced the photographs for the exhibition organised by HCVS on behalf of the CEN.

📍 **You can pop in to HCVS to see the photographs in our Adiaha Antigha conference room**

📞: 020 7923 1962 ✉: gillian@hcv.org.uk ■

Yemim Noraim: Jewish High Holidays

Melanie Danan updates SPARK on the three September festivals which are a time of introspection and celebration; throughout the Jewish religion there is a mixture of seriousness with joy.

During major festivals, Jews can't drive, work, handle money or light fires. To cook we'd have a fire already lit, but would usually cook in advance. Our festivals are very family orientated and punctuated by meals because we believe that things in the world are given to raise us closer to God.

Our calendar is lunar, but we make adjustments because Passover has to be in spring, which means festivals are always in the same season.

Rosh Hashana: This year, Rosh Hashana or the Head of the Year, falls on 13 and 14 September, like all Jewish festivals it starts at dusk on evening before. Jews believe that the whole of mankind is being judged at this time. It's a time of introspection when we look our actions to see how we can improve ourselves. The fate of each person is sealed at this time depending on their deeds, so God decides how much a person will earn, and who will live or die.

In the synagogue the shofar or rams horn, pictured below, is blown to shake people to repentance. Because we want the new year to be sweet, the symbolic food is apple dipped in honey, see bottom left.



Rosh Hashanah from Hackney



September was a month of religious festivals, including Ramadan for Muslims, Birth of Krishna Jayanti and Ganesh Chaturthi for Hindus and the Chinese Mid Autumn festival. As well as three Jewish important festivals: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. SPARK spoke to Melanie Danan, left, from the Interlink Foundation about our growing Charedi Orthodox Jewish community.

People think the Charedi community separates itself as a choice, but really it is dictated by the religious and cultural rules we follow.

We have completely separate activities for males and females from an early age, which means our access to things like leisure services and borough wide celebrations are restricted. We educate children in our 15 faith schools, so they learn both the National Curriculum and Jewish Law - our way of life.

Who are the Charedi community?

Charedi means "to stand in fear" and is a loose term for people following the Orthodox Jewish faith. The Charedi population in Hackney is 20,000, of which half are children under 16. It is a stable population, because of the infrastructure here – synagogues, kosher shops, schools. A high value is placed on family life, people are encouraged to get married. We live like others did 50 years ago.

Our faith is based on adherence to the tenets of the Jewish religion: keeping the Sabbath and the festivals, eating a kosher diet and modesty in clothing and language. We accept that there are some rules that we can't explain – like not eating pork.

Our teaching also says there are three pillars of community; learning the Torah, worship and prayer, and acts of loving kindness, including volunteering.



Sweet New Year
Apple and Honey

While we work for our own, we do care about the wider community, and our work can have a ripple effect.



A religious Jew puts a lot of emphasis on learning the Torah, a man is judged by how erudite he is in this, not by whether he is a doctor or a lawyer. Women don't have the same obligation because of their caring role, but they are not restricted from study.

We believe that when Moses went up Mount Sinai, he received the written and the oral Torah. The oral tradition represents a living appreciation of the Torah that has kept the religion alive even though Jews have been persecuted and dispersed.

What is Interlink Foundation?

Interlink is the umbrella body for Charedi voluntary sector - like HCVS but targeting a particular community. We serve everything from kitchen sink organisations up to housing associations with 70 employees. We have 160 members nationally of which 85 are in Hackney.

We do development work, provide information, and carry out policy and regeneration work - for example. making sure the Charedi community is

included in policy decisions.

Do you work in partnership?

Yes a lot - we are part of Stamford Hill and New River Children's Centres. We also work with the North London Muslim Housing Association and the North London Muslim Community Centre - we campaigned with them to stop single groups or faith groups being penalised. We also work with church groups, the Community Empowerment Network and the Children's Board amongst others.

While we work for our own, we do care about the wider community, and our work can have a ripple effect. For example, we did some work on the lack of services for children with disabilities, because we felt these children in our community were getting a raw deal. But then we joined up with other groups across Hackney, and this led to better service provision.



Symbols of Sukkot

More information:

The Interlink Foundation

Lower Ground Floor Offices 124 Stamford Hill London N16 6QT

☎: 020 8802 2469 ✉: melanie@interlink-foundation.org.uk

🌐: www.interlink-foundation.org.uk

Yemim Noraim: Jewish High Holidays

Yom Kippur: Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement, was on Friday 22 September 2007. It lasts for one day and comes 10 days after Rosh Hashana. At Yom Kippur we confess to things which we've done wrong. We fast for 25 hours - no food or drink - don't wear leather shoes (to indicate humility), and spend most of the day in the synagogue. Children fast from age 13 (after Bar Mitzvah) for boys and from 12 for girls. At the end of Yom Kippur the shofar is sounded.

Sukkot: Four days after Yom Kippur, from 26 September to 4 October is Sukkot or the Feast of the Tabernacles. This commemorates the Children of Israel being protected in the desert by living in temporary booths. It's a nine day festival with restrictions for the first and last two days, though religious Jews would not work throughout if possible.

During Sukkot, each family house uses a converted shed in which to eat - and some people sleep there too. There should be direct contact with the sky (though there is an exemption if it is raining) to remind us that we are not protected by any roof, but by God. Some people build structures outdoors, some in a kitchen or conservatory.

In the synagogue we bring symbolic species - a palm branch with an etrog (a yellow lemon like fruit), willow and myrtle leaves. At the end of Sukkot is Simchath Torah, when the yearly cycle of Sabbath Torah readings finishes.

DEMOCRACY

Take part, take power

Let's talk politics. Did you know that your opinion counts? And that you have the power to influence the way your area and your country are run? **This is democracy.**

Come and explore democracy at an event in Hackney Town Hall:

- Meet Jules Pipe Mayor of Hackney, and Meg Hillier MP
- Watch "Big Sister" – the play developed by local young people and the nationally acclaimed Arcola Theatre, at 4.30pm
- Get involved with local and national organisations
- Enter a competition to win a Nintendo Wii
- And much more!

All absolutely FREE

The place: The Assembly Hall in Hackney Town Hall (next to Hackney Empire), E8 1EA
The time: 3-7pm, Friday 19 October

For more information
call: 020 8356 3520 or
email: paul.knipe@hackney.gov.uk



KISHORE SAYS:

"Full Cost Recovery means including all your hidden costs in your budget such as light, heating, staff, IT and stationary."

Voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations, both big and small, are increasingly providing services on behalf of local councils and primary care trusts. One of the main dangers is failing to recover the full cost of delivering a service leaving your organisation facing a constant scramble for funding.

Kishore Kanani from HCVS' Development Team introduces Full Cost Recovery, which means planning your budget so your organisation recoups the total costs of delivering a service, including a share of the organisation's overheads.

These costs – referred to as **core costs, central costs and overheads** – include things like heat and light, office rent, phone bills and stationary as well as management and staff time. They all need to be fully costed, and a fair proportion added to the direct costs of running the service. This is the total cost of delivery.

Benefits of Full Cost Recovery

Not accounting for all costs, including a proportion of the core costs undermines your organisation's financial stability and you may have to find other funding sources.

Charities could breach Charity Commission rules, if public sector contracts are subsidised by charitable resources. And risk charges of double funding, or using different money for the same service.

Top Tips to Full Cost Recovery

Here are some hints from the Finance Hub to get you started:

- start with costs that are easy to identify, such as wages and materials. Then tackle those costs like stationery and phone bills that are shared.
- to work out shared overheads, draw a small table noting key factors, such as number of people, office space used and worker time
- don't forget ongoing yearly costs, such as equipment wearing out and staff needing cover for maternity or paternity leave

■ voluntary and community organisations need to consider walking away or refusing contracts that are under-funded. As well as compromising the sustainability of the organisation, under-resourced services run contrary to the best interests of service users. They can also breach charity regulations.

HCVS Development Team

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✉: kristine@hcv.org.uk

✉: zarah@hcv.org.uk

Full Cost Recovery: Where to get more information

Full Cost Recovery (FCR)

Training Cyndi Smart from Community Accountancy Project will be holding FCR training in groups or to individuals as part of the HCVS Fit for Purpose training programme.

For more information

☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: zarah@hcv.org.uk

🌐: www.hcv.org.uk

Finance Hub

This is a brilliant website which explains Full Cost Recovery very clearly and gives other online resources including acevo and Big Lottery's free template.

For more information

🌐: www.financehub.org.uk/selling_goods_and_services/full_cost_recovery/default.aspx

Last chance for a Local Network Fund grant



Nadia Capogrosso (left), from HCVS Grants Team updates SPARK on the Local Network Fund and Team Hackney funding.

We have been managing the Local Network Fund grants programme for three years and the final round will close on Monday 15 October. We have £200,000 left, so apply today call 0845 113 1161 for an application form. In the last round we awarded a total of £207,000 to 28 voluntary and community sector (VCS) projects.

Team Hackney Community Grants - £1,000 fast track

The first stage of our new grants programme from Team Hackney closed last month. In total, 77 organisations were awarded a total of £53,000 under the Fast Track Programme for grants less than £1,000.

Here are examples of projects that were funded:

African Community School : To run a three week summer creative learning programme aimed at 8 to 16 year olds from Black and ethnic minority communities.

Somali Women's Support Group: To deliver workshops on domestic violence for Somali families to raise awareness and reduce the harm it causes.

Tikva: To provide light exercise, dance and relaxation classes for older people.

£1,000 - £5,000 small grants to close 12 October

The £1,000 to £5,000 programme is due to close on Wednesday, 12 October 2007, you can get an application form from our website - www.hcvs.org.uk

£50,000: A new approach to outcomes

The final £5,000 to £50,000 programme will be launched later this month. There will be a more rigorous application process designed to prepare VCS groups for commissioning - see page 23. The main difference is the outcomes expected, groups will be required to provide both soft and hard outcomes.

For example, let's use a project which is raising educational attainment, soft outcomes would be showing the number of young people you worked with and general monitoring information on gender, sex, age etc. You would also need to show how many achieved the hard outcomes, such as passing externally assessed exams.

HCVS will be holding a workshop on £50,000 grants later in October - ✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk

Office politics



Advancing the cause

L-R: Les Moore, CEN and HCVS' Gary Francis, Niall Sweby and Jake Ferguson with people from NCVO Compact Voice and Office of the Third Sector

Over the summer, HCVS and the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) received a visit from the Office of the Third Sector (OTS).

Among the party was Maria Nyberg, who is one of the new government leads on the voluntary and community sector (VCS).

The OTS have published recommendations about funding the VCS to feed into the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR). This review will be undertaken this autumn and set the funding for government departments and their agencies for the next three years.

There is a push for the VCS to take on more of a social enterprise function, and a focus on the economic activity of the sector. Encouraging local councils to work with the VCS to influence public policy and deliver public services is also highlighted.

Jake Ferguson, Chief Officer, HCVS said 'Government seems to understand more and more that commissioning is difficult for many VCS groups to be part of.' ■

Find out more:

📄: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/third_sector_review/

Keep our grants in Hackney



HCVS' Kristine Wellington, above, tells SPARK how important it is to keep Hackney council's local grants in Hackney.

Good luck to everyone who put in an application for Hackney Council Voluntary Sector Grants. Over 80 people attended HCVS workshops with myself, Kishore Kanani and Cyndi Smart, to help groups apply for a small grant up to £5k or a larger grant.

The grants are currently being managed by London Councils. Next year, this programme will move in house, to be managed by the council once again.

Hackney is one of the few boroughs who still have a grants programme, most have moved to a commissioning arrangement - see page 23. These grants are crucial to the survival of community projects across the borough, so we must make sure they stay in Hackney. ■

📍 **Kristine Wellington**

✉: kristine@hcvs.org.uk



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@hcvs.org.uk

A new Compact for Hackney

The National Compact is a written agreement between the Government and the voluntary and community sector (VCS), which sets out how the two will work together. For example, giving three months notice of funding decisions and allowing twelve weeks for consultations.

Local Compacts explain how the principles of the Compact will be applied to local areas. The Hackney Compact was agreed in 2006 but it needs updating and to include five Codes of Practice. This is important as it will set down in writing how public sector organisations like Hackney council and Team Hackney should work with the VCS.

Work on the Compact has been led by the Hackney Compact Joint Working Group. This group will be reformed with people from statutory bodies and six VCS representatives. There are people from the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) and HCVS as they are the borough's main VCS umbrella organisations. Also represented are LinkUp - the key capacity building organisation and people from BME, faith and one small group: IFTEEN Education and Health Project.

Team Hackney will lead this new group and it will become a sub-group of the Team Hackney Community Engagement Task Group. The first meeting will be in November and it will continue until mid 2008.

📍 **Want to find out more?**

✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk 🌐: www.hcvs.org.uk

Your refreshed Compact Working group

The following people have been selected to sit on the Compact Working Group:

VCS representatives:

Bisi Ojuri: CEN, LinkUp, Hackney Voluntary Action

Mary Cannon: CEN and Hackney Social Care Forum

Melanie Danan: CEN, The Interlink Foundation

Jake Ferguson: HCVS

Sonia Khan: CEN, HTEN

Khatra Ali: IFTEEN Education and Health Project

Statutory organisations: Hackney council

Cllr Nargis Khan, Carole Stewart and one more member to be advised

Primary Care Trust: To be advised

Police: To be advised

Team Hackney Community Engagement Task Group:

Gavin Cansfield - Board Champion for Community Engagement

the funding directory

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

Subscribe to: Grants Online

📧: www.grantsonline.org.uk

fit4funding

📧: www.fit4funding.org.uk

✉: Andrew.Pring@fit4funding.org.uk

IHCVS help with funding

- You can book an appointment with our Development Team for an individual advice session.
- You can book time to use FUNDER FINDER a computer programme that searches over 4,500 funders which make grants to VCS groups.
- You can sign up for HCVS' free email newsletter and get funding news as it happens...

📧 **Gillian Trevethan**

☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk ■

Getting Hackney Reading

Words Unite grants are for community groups to help **children or adults with reading.**

Community groups can bid for up to £5,000 providing this does not exceed 10% of their income. You could use this for books, games, training, or ICT based activities.

Deadline: Monday 15 October

📧 **Find out more:**

📧: www.gethackneyreading.com/ghr/FullStory.aspx?t=3&id=3 ■

Connecting Communities Plus - Community Grants

To support practical action to help achieve the goals set out in Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society, the government's strategy to increase race equality and improve community cohesion. For tailored projects that meet the specific needs of **disadvantaged communities**, not that treat all BME communities the same.

Grants: £6,000 - £12,000

Deadline: 8 Jan 08

📧 **Find out more:**

☎: 01223 400 343

📧: www.cdf.org.uk ■

Red Nose Day UK 2005-08

Focus on seven programme areas: **Young People; around issues of alcohol, mental health and those being sexually exploited or trafficked; Older People; Mental Health; Refugees & Asylum Seekers; Domestic Violence.** Two types of grants in their open programmes.

Main Grants: Grants over £5000

Small Grants: Grants up to £5000 only: Disadvantaged Communities; Older people; Mental health.

📧 **Find out more:**

☎: 020 7820 5555

📧: www.comicrelief.com ■

KPMG Foundation

For education and social projects for four distinct facing disadvantage, including: **Refugees; Young offenders; Children and young people who have been in care; Children and young people with dyslexia / literacy difficulties.** Applications for the General Grants programme happen once a year. Send your details in for their database. When the Trustees agree their funding date at the end of each year for the following year, they contact all organisations on their database with details of the funding date, and application process. 📧 **Add your details to the KPMG database:**

✉: kpmgfoundation@kpmg.co.uk

📧: www.kpmg.co.uk/about/foundation/index.cfm ■

DOH Social Enterprise Investment Fund - England

For social enterprise pathfinders and other organisations which are, or aim to become, social enterprises delivering **health and/or social care services.**

Closing date: 31 Oct 07

📧: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Commissioning/Socialenterprise/DH_073426 ■

LOUD MINORITY

EDUCATION INFORMATION PROMOTION TRAINING

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

For children and young people's projects

Capital 95.8's Help a London Child

For London's children and young people who experience poverty and disadvantage; have/are experiencing abuse, neglect, homelessness, violence or crime; or who have an illness or disability. **Grants:** £3,000 max **Deadline:** 5 Nov 07

Find out more:

☎: 020 7054 8395 / 8396

✉: halc@capitalradio.com

🌐: www.capitalradio.com/halc ■

Youth Music - programmes

Three types of music programmes for children and young people from 0 - 18 years of age.

☎: 020 7902 1060

✉: info@youthmusic.org.uk

🌐: www.youthmusic.org.uk/looking_for_funding.jsp ■

Big Lottery Fund - UnLtd - Big Boost ends

Supports young people who are keen to get involved in their communities, set up and run projects that we hope will make a lasting difference to them as well as to the areas they live in.

Closing date: 1 Nov 07 ☎: 08454 10 20 30

✉: info@thebigboost.org.uk ■

Ebony Saturday Schools

& Family Learning Centres

Est. 1987

Subjects

Mathematics, English, Science & Creative Studies

Exam preparation/Assessments/Effective Study Skills & Communication Skills

SATs, Common Entrance & GCSE. Ages 5-16 years

Venues & Opening Times

North London

- Stamford Hill Library, Portland Avenue, N16 6SD (10.15 – 12.15pm)

South London

- St Hilda's Church, Courtraï Rd, SE23 (9.15-11.15am)
 - Holbeach Primary School, Doggett Rd, Catford SE6 (12-2pm)
 - Peckham library, Peckham Hill St, Peckham SE15 (2.45 -4.45pm)
 - Moonshot Centre, Fordham Park, Angus St, SE14 (11 – 1pm)
 - Ferndale Sports Centre, Nursery Rd SW9 8PB (9.30 – 11.30am)
- (New schools opening all over London)

Plus

Ebony Education Online

Mathematics, English, Science & Black History

One to one consultations offered on most education issues

Ebony Home Tuition Service

Courses for parents: How to Unlock Your Child's Genius

0208 850 6225

www.ebonveducation.com

Winner of the CarAF (2005) & London Schools (2006) Saturday School of the Year Awards

Kench Hill Centre



Hackney's own residential study centre, managed by The Learning Trust.

Located in a beautiful area of rural Kent near beaches and castles, it provides comfortable, homely accommodation in tranquil gardens for many activities such as team-building, adult and family learning weekends, socials and holidays.

For 30 years the Centre has catered for Hackney school trips, but we are now open all year round for the benefit of all Hackney users.

Weekends and school holiday dates available for 2008.

Self-catered or fully catered breaks for up to 40 people.

Hackney groups, employees and residents eligible for discounted rates.

Previous users: Hoxton Drama Group, North London Muslim Community Centre, Hackney Community College.

The Centre is now wheelchair accessible.

See our new website for details. www.kenchhill.co.uk Tel: 01580 762073

Choice for people with disabilities in Hackney

SPARK talks to **Caroline Nelson**, the **Director of Choice in Hackney**, a **disability support organisation**. Read about the **competition for funding** and **Caroline's hopes for Independent Living for all disabled people in Hackney**.

What is Choice in Hackney?

Choice in Hackney is a disability organisation providing advocacy and independent living support to disabled Hackney residents to help them have an independent and dignified lifestyle. We help people with accessible housing, care packages, maximising benefits, and access to transport and the health service. We currently have 75 active cases.

How long have you worked for Choice in Hackney?

I started as a part-time advocate when Choice set up in 1992. I left for a while and came back 10 years ago as the director.

Why do you like the work?

It's the people. Here at Choice most of us are disabled people and for us it's about providing peer support. When someone approaches you, they feel you understand, so there's trust and they open up because they see you as an ally. I think this contributes to our success rate, which we are proud of. It's not easy in Hackney to sort out things like housing – you can be supporting someone for two years.

What are the challenges you face?

Funding in Hackney is a problem – it's getting tighter and there are a lot of organisations running after a small pot of money. We



Disability Champion: Caroline

do our best to go out to charities but they expect your local authority to provide core funding. Charities' funding schemes are time limited, and they will often say don't come back for two years. After you've done the rounds, where do you go?

It's frustrating because the services are needed – there's a waiting list which shouldn't be there because it's about people's lives. Most cases we can't leave too long – for example if someone's welfare claim is turned down there is just one month to appeal. If someone has a terminal illness and they need an accessible shower, they can't wait ages.

The council is planning to carry out a review of Advocacy, to better support individuals that campaign on behalf of the needs of local people. It's a good thing that the extent of the need for the service will be seen, but I'm nervous that it may be based on saving money.

What do you hope for?

There's a government green paper asking Local Authorities to provide for Independent Living in every borough. We'd like to set up a centre offering

In Hackney - if we could move away from competition in the voluntary sector and go towards joint working it would be more productive than fighting each other.

training, placements, work experience and helping with people with looking for jobs, interview skills and voluntary work.

We'd also like to set up a volunteering and befriending scheme to take people out and help with their shopping etc.

And HCVS need funding so they can empower us. I think that's starting to happen, for example with HCVS Business Planning focus groups to find the needs and aspirations of voluntary groups, and with the capacity building training and support. It takes time, I hope it continues – we all need to be ready for the change to commissioning.

Anything else?

In Hackney - if we could move away from competition in the voluntary sector and go towards joint working it would be more productive than fighting each other. ■

More information:

Choice in Hackney

Second floor

D Block St Leonards

Nuttall Street, London N1 5LZ

☎ : 020 7613 3206

✉ : choiceinhackney@lineone.net

Paying tribute to three influential Hackney figures

Sam Ayul died earlier this year from a heart attack. Well known in the Sudanese community and the African voluntary sector, Sam started working as a volunteer at Diaspora, and later became an advice and advocacy worker.

Sam dealt with many asylum cases of people fleeing from Darfur, accompanying them to detention centres, courts and solicitors.

Following the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between North and South Sudan, Sam was invited back to the Sudan in 2006 and was appointed as one of the 16 ambassadors from South Sudan to participate in the



Sam Ayul: 1/1/56 – 8/4/07

central government.

Josephine Yanga, Director of Diaspora said "The peace agreement is overshadowed by the Darfur conflict, although it provides for a referendum in

2011 for South Sudan to choose whether to remain in one united Sudan or to succeed and become an independent country.

When Sam went to Sudan to take up his post in summer 2006, he was happy, looking forward to his work, and along with the Sudanese community feeling positive – the agreement is not perfect but we felt it was something that could work for both the South and North.

Sam was an active and cheerful member of the team in Diaspora and Hackney African Forum. The information about his tragic loss was quite a blow to those and knew and loved him, he is being greatly missed". ■



Anne Goldenberg: 1919 - 2007

Anne Goldenberg, who died on 7 June this year at the age of 88, was a Trustee of Age Concern Hackney, an active member of Hackney Pensioners Convention and its President for 15 years.

She was also an Executive Member of Hackney Council for Older People and Chair of the Editorial Board of the Hackney Pensioners Press 1985 - 2000.

Always open to modern ideas, completely non-judgmental about young people, Anne transmitted her radicalism to her children, who became active in leftwing causes. Wickedly funny, she was unconcerned about other people's opinion of her. ■

Eddie Noble was a local Hackney elder who died recently at the age of 90. Eddie had a passion for supporting and mentoring children and young people.

He did workshops in schools and local libraries in Hackney and other London boroughs about his life. He wrote several books, the most famous being the 'Jamaican Airman'. This was published back in 1984 and was the first book written by a Black person regarding their WW2 war time experiences. The book was very popular and was used by Andrea Levy as part of ground breaking book 'Small Island'.

Eddie is the last of a generation that was born during the First World War. After retirement in 1982, he was a founder member in 1985 of the Clapton Common Day Care Centre for pensioners and the disabled, and served as a secretary until 1988. He was a Trustee and Vice Chairman of Age Concern Hackney from 1986 to 1989.

📍 🗨:

www.everygeneration.co.uk/monthlyguest/eddie_noble.htm
Patrick Vernon will be talking about Eddie on 14 October - see page 26 ■



Edmund Martin Noble: 1917 – 2007

Supporting Hackney's Communities



HCVS encourages hundreds of local people to develop community projects, providing them with the skills, knowledge, funding and expertise to deliver better solutions to renew their neighbourhoods or communities.



HCVS publishes *SPARK* – the quarterly magazine for Hackney's voluntary and community sector. Got a story or some good news about your project then contact Gillian at gillian@hcv.org.uk



HCVS is funded to support local voluntary and community action. We are supported by a number of national and local agencies:

What we do?

- Provide small grants for new and existing community projects
- Coordinate the Hackney Community Empowerment Network
- Offer free one-to-one fundraising support, capacity building and training courses for community and voluntary groups
- Assist street-level training providers
- Provide training and help community groups achieve quality standards
- Represent the sector on different boards such as Team Hackney - Hackney's Strategic Partnership
- Conduct research about the sector
- Facilitate volunteering and community leadership
- Provide a 'hub' of practical resources for small community groups such as photocopying, internet access



HCVS has a conference room for hire. Seats up to 60 people

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



For more information about HCVS
call 020 7923 1962 or visit www.hcv.org.uk

Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) is the leading voluntary & community sector support agency in Hackney (registered charity no 1069736, registered company 3365292). HCVS is a member of NACVS and the Accountable Body for the Community Empowerment Network in Hackney. We are based at 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street London E8.

