



CEN VISION
LAA refresh
and training on
commissioning



**SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE**
four new local
entrepreneurs



CHRISTIANITY
three messages
of faith

HCVS' magazine for Hackney's voluntary & community sector

SPARK



In this issue:

- ▶ fast track success
- ▶ winter diary
- ▶ fit for purpose
- ▶ commissioning
- ▶ hackney refugee forum
- ▶ social enterprise
- ▶ meet nathaniel stevens
- ▶ news from the sector
- ▶ plus the latest funding news

campaigning:
a look at local activism

HACKNEY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Hackney Community Transport would like to take this opportunity to thank all the local community and voluntary organisations, clubs and groups that have used our services over the last 25 years.

Recently we have been busy making extensive enhancements to the service we provide. We are confident that the alterations we have made and the resulting benefits have made our Group Transport Scheme the best ever. We have listened carefully to the feedback from our members and are confident that the services we offer today fully meet the requirements, preferences and expectations of the local community. Examples of the improvements are:-



- **A completely new pricing structure. Drive our minibuses for up to 4 hours from £15, up to 8 hours from £20 and up to 24 hours from £30. All rates now include the first 10 miles of fuel*.**
- **Smart new vehicles have been added to our fleet. We now offer even more extensive choice and availability of standard and fully accessible vehicles.**
- **Full breakdown and insurance cover*.**
- **Experienced, qualified and CRB cleared Drivers and Passenger Assistants are now available to groups*.**
- **Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) training available from £10.00 per person. (4 year certificate awarded)*.**

To receive an information pack or to find out more about our Community Group Transport Scheme, please contact us on 020 7275-2414



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 hundreds of 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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Winter 2008



2008 will be about developing a strong voluntary and community sector (VCS) workforce to meet the challenges ahead and achieve future funding success. Read about about the range of free training available at HCVS with a little help from partners such as the Community Empowerment Network and HTEN. We're also going back to VCS basics with a look at Hackney campaigns. **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 hundreds of local organisations. 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.

Children & Families News

Pampering hands

Hackney Family BackUp



Massage for parent from HFBU

Ahead of the opening of Hackney Ark, a new child development centre for disabled children in March 2008, Hackney Family Backup (HFBU) organised a Pampering Day to thank people from Hackney Families Together (HFT) a consultation group for parents of disabled children.

HFT was started by a partnership between Hackney Children and Young People's Services, the PCT, the Key, Portage, Parent Partnership, HFBU and the City and Hackney Carers Centre. HFBU and the Carers Centre lead the group, building on the trusting relationship they have with local parents. Meeting monthly, parents talk to service providers about their needs.

Sheila Ramdular, of HFBU said: "This feels like a powerful group of parents articulating to professionals and each other. It's a real example of community cohesion: parents are from all different ages and backgrounds.

There's some fantastic women in the group, and it is mainly women, developing links with families and developing friendship."

I just heard my daughter can get into the school I have been fighting for her to attend. Without these [consultation] sessions I wouldn't be able to have done this.

At the Pampering Day in December, London College of Beauty Therapy students volunteered manicures, and hand massage while professional therapists offered Indian Head massage and reiki to over 50 parents.

One parent, Auxilia, said "I've had a lovely day, I took a day's annual leave and it's worth every minute - I didn't realise how much stress I had been under. I just heard my daughter can get into the school I have been fighting for her to attend. Without these [consultation] sessions I wouldn't be able to have done this. I also met two parents with kids at her new school – one in her new class! You never get the opportunity to meet other parents because disabled kids are bussed to school."

Parents want an integrated service and the new Centre will bring together staff and services from The Learning Trust, Primary Care Trust and Hackney Children and Families. Last year, HFBU supported 150 children with a disability or a disabling medical condition and their families. Services include short break (respite) care, homesitting, family support and a specialist toy and resource library. ■ **HFBU**
 ✉: www.hfbu.org.uk
 ☎: 020 7275 0088

Arts sponsors wanted!

Mauritius links

Disability Hackney's Ron Newman, a parent carer of a child with a disability, celebrated International Day of Disabled People in Mauritius last December.

Ron met local people, United Nations officials, government ministers and winning disabled Olympians. Events saw the launch of the National Policy Paper and Action Plan on Disability programme and ended with a spectacular performance by disability organisations.



Disabled Children at launch of Arts of Crafts in Mauritius

Ron supports The Anglo Mauritian Disability Link (AMDL), a London based Charity that donates with much needed equipment including wheelchairs, walking sticks and specialist beds to disabled children in Mauritius.

ADML are looking for sponsors to bring disabled performers from Mauritius to work with arts organisations on a festival in Hackney or East London. ■

📞 To help contact Ron Newman
 ☎: 07882 205104
 ✉: ronnewman1@btinternet.com



Mural painting at Evergreen

An evergreen adventure!

Evergreen Play Association

Evergreen Play Association (Evergreen) is a grass-roots, and inclusive adventure play project, known locally as 'Adventure'. Covering an acre, Evergreen provides free, safe, creative, supervised play and associated learning activities for local children aged five to 15.

For over 34 years, Evergreen has seen many changes and met countless challenges with the support of the community, the Council, HCVS and others. We were voted London Playground of the Year, based on comments from other adventure playgrounds. When the government launched its new play strategy at Evergreen, we were visited by civil servants, MPs and top celebrities.

We have a purpose-built and accessible play building with a large hall, arts and crafts room, soft play room, kitchen, office and toilets. Outside is, a garden, wildlife pond, wooded area, swings, sky dens, an aerial runway and a tree walkway. We also organise day trips and residential holidays.

Our inclusive play project integrates children with disabilities into the mainstream playground with specialist support to promote the child's social, physical, intellectual, creative and emotional needs. Specialist inclusion playworkers, some British Sign Language trained, focus on a child's strengths and abilities giving children a positive and enriching experience.

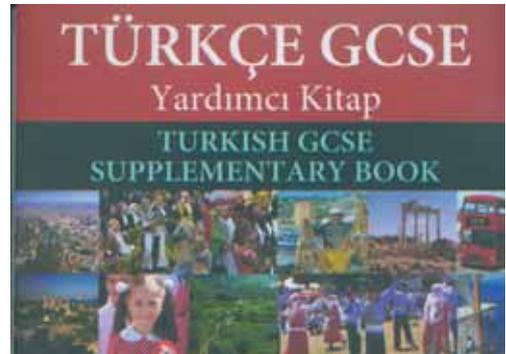
Parents of children who use the playground and local people form our committee and manage Evergreen. We are Ofsted registered and our trained, full-time play leaders and workers are CRB checked. There is no waiting list for the mainstream project but children must be registered. ■

Evergreen Play Association

Beehive Close, Dalston, London, E8 3JT ☎: 020 7275 9004

First Turkish GCSE Supplementary Book launched

Educators Forum



Teachers and students of GCSE Turkish have support as the first Turkish GCSE Supplementary Book is published by Educators Forum and funded by the Community Empowerment Network (CEN). Being the first publication in Turkish in the UK produced by teachers in the UK specifically for students in the UK, it is directly aimed at the improving the educational attainment of Turkish Kurdish and Cypriot Turkish children.

Volunteer educators from across London worked with relentless attention to detail, bearing in mind the needs of the target communities and the criteria of the Community Language Programme. There are 29 lesson plans, a yearly plan and past examination papers.

Turkish-speaking students are often in London schools where many diverse cultures coexist, so the book aims to strengthen the friendship between languages and cultures. As Cypriot Turkish, Turkish and Kurdish students tend to mix, lessons make use of various social, cultural and geographical examples from London, Cyprus and Turkey.

Order from Educators Forum below. Prices start at £10. ■

① Educators Forum

☎: 07838 145 486

✉: info@edforum.org.uk

Hackney Refugee Forum

Network, network, network



Ali Aksoy, (left) Chair - Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF), with news on refugee and asylum seeker organisations.

Over 41 people from 35 organisations attended our last Forum meeting. I reported on recent developments in the Refugee and Asylum Seeker (RAS) community in Hackney: including the recent suicides within the Turkish and Kurdish community over last nine months. We are trying to activate local service providers to improve support around this.

Speakers included people from Hackney Children and Young People's Services, The Learning Trust, Hackney Community College and HTEN.

Our next meeting is on parenting: 1 – 3pm, Friday, 8 Feb at HCVS.

ESOL Review

In January, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) launched a consultation on how the funding for ESOL should be prioritised. The DIUS proposes that: 'ESOL funding should be more specifically targeted to foster community cohesion and integration in our communities'. The consultation document suggests a range of 'hard to reach' or vulnerable target groups who should be ensured access to ESOL. These include:

- Excluded women or those who

are at risk of being excluded, particularly those who have school age children

- Those who are identified in local areas as raising particular issues for community cohesion
- Refugees
- Asylum seekers who are still in the country beyond six months awaiting a decision on their status or cannot return home.

The DIUS propose that local authorities should be responsible for coordinating and targeting ESOL provision at local level in line with specific local needs using the Local Area Agreement planning process. There is no additional funding for ESOL.

ESOL provision is the most important service in easing the integration of refugees and asylum seekers into the UK. We heard from many asylum seekers who were disappointed, and even afraid of further isolation, when they heard the news about the cuts. According to last year's figures, there were over 700 people on the ESOL waiting list at Hackney Community College. The cuts of ESOL provision will affect refugees disproportionately and the whole community will suffer as a result.

You have the opportunity to take part. Visit the link below and respond by 4 April. ■

📍 **Ali Aksoy** 📞: 020 7923 1962

✉: ali@hcvs.org.uk

🔗: http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/esol_consultation.pdf

HRF produce a fortnightly e-newsletter, to sign up:

✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk



St Mary's in Stoke Newington

Drop-in comes to Stokey

Hackney Migrant Centre

After a year of planning and fundraising Hackney Migrant Centre is due to open as a weekly drop in for refugees, asylum seekers and other newcomers on **Wednesday, March 19 at St Mary's New Church Rooms, Stoke Newington.**

Volunteers will provide a cooked meal and a welcoming environment to refugees and asylum seekers.

Staff from Hackney Community Law Centre will provide legal advice on immigration, housing and welfare, and we will also offer health advice and advocacy. We also hope to organise English classes and leisure activities.

We need wider community participation to ensure the Centre's ongoing success. If you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer at the Centre or in some other way, contact us below. ■

📍 **Rayah Feldman**

📞: 07791 991416

✉: hmcentre@googlemail.com

Young People's news

Driving Success

The Robert Levy Foundation

Inspiration Day on 15 September 2007 saw the unveiling of a bench in memory of Robert Levy, a brave 16 year old who was killed protecting a younger child from a knife attack in Hackney.

A careers' fair at Ocean music venue rounded off a day of music and drama at the Hackney Empire for One Love Hackney – Week of Civic Pride. A car was raffled that was donated by EDF energy and worked on by a small group of would be mechanics under the tutelage of Ian Levy, Robert's father as part of a summer mechanics course. Of the six who completed, one was offered an apprenticeship by Citroen, another returned to college and another found a job. A fantastic success!

Having heard about the socially responsible steps taken by EDF Energy and brokered by the Industrial Trust, Aggregate Industries' Mark Whelehan was moved to donate two Mitsubishi 4 x 4 pick-up trucks to the Robert Levy Foundation.



Keys to a bright future: Ian and Nathan Levy, father and brother of Robert, are handed the keys to the first of two Mitsubishi 4 x 4 pick-up trucks, by Mark Whelehan, Aggregate Industries.

A programme of engagement is planned, which will see visits to Aggregate Industries' sites in the UK and also sponsorship of a science fair in Hackney. In Robert's name his brother Nathan, voted joint top of the most influential Londoners in education by the Evening Standard for his work in schools and education around gun and knife crimes, wants to deliver a series of educational programmes to help young people achieve their potential.

With industrial giants voting with their hearts to help young people in Hackney the future is promising – let's hope their generosity is matched by public sector sponsorship. ■

Robert Levy Foundation ☎ : 0870 626 0709
🌐 : www.robertlevyfoundation.org

Green Lottery Winner for Haggerston

Haggerston Youth Inclusion Project

Haggerston Youth Inclusion Project (YIP) has received £85.5K to deliver an environmental project aimed at motivating and involving young people in making real improvements to their local environment and community spaces.

The project is one of 70 England-wide projects lucky enough to benefit from the £8.3 million funding granted from the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme to national charity Crime Concern, who fund

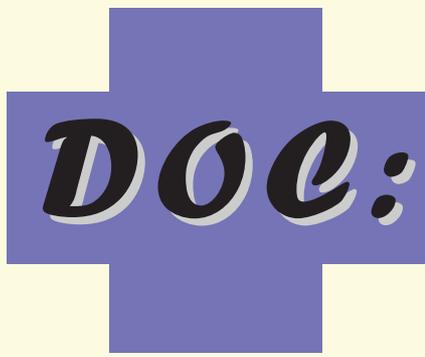
Haggerston YIP. Activities at the YIP will include developing community and sensory gardens and gaining knowledge of fresh vegetables and herbs.

Claire Smith, Haggerston YIP: "This gives young people a golden opportunity to receive recognition for making a positive contribution to their environment and community. This can be used to improve their long term employment opportunities, increase their self-esteem and in turn improve perceptions of young people."

Crime Concern's partners – Encams, The Prince's Trust, Youth Justice Board and Changemakers – will provide the young people with education, training and employment progression as part of their work. This will include practical support and specialist guidance as well as real access routes for those young people who are interested in longer term volunteering, employment or training. ■

Haggerston YIP
☎ : 020 7241 6699





developing organisations' capacity

issue 8 - Training and Development



KRISTINE SAYS:

“Our strength is lies in our ability to adopt a variety of effective approaches and reach the parts of the community which other sectors cannot reach.”

Kristine Wellington, HCVS Children, Families and Young People Development Officer on the support for voluntary and community sector (VCS) new workforce training and development guidelines.

Rewind a few years to the Learning and Skills agenda, which focused on improving basic skills and some areas of workforce development. Now we have the Sector Skills Council (SSC), which recognizes the importance of a highly skilled and qualified workforce.

The VCS is key to the social economy and statutory sector services - we are considered good value for money, but not so cheap that we overstretch our workforce and strain our resources. Our strength is our ability to adopt a variety of effective approaches and reach the parts of the community which other sectors cannot reach.

Like any sector, we face challenges: high turnover of staff due to short term contracts, funding focussed on

delivery not workforce development, little job security, lower salaries and limited promotional prospects. Where training is offered, VCS staff often stop delivering services to attend because there is no staff cover. Despite this, the values of the VCS attract highly self motivated trustees, staff and volunteers.

Shared learning opportunities

There is much more emphasis on integrated working, access to shared information systems, a drive to create cross sector professional learning opportunities. For example, schools are hosting VCS led supplementary education provision, together achieving improved educational attainment. This creates a cross sector learning environment.

The reality is that training and development funds within the VCS are limited and tend to be used for short courses or attendance at conferences. The statutory sector, on the other hand have resources for training and development and opened their

City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board: Child Protection training dates

18 Feb 9.30 - 4.30pm:

Managing allegations against professionals

25 Feb, 9.30 - 4.30pm:

Safeguarding children with disabilities

28 Feb, 9.30 - 4.30pm: Child protection conference

3 Mar, 9.30 - 4.30pm: The effective supervisor / manager

4 Mar, 9.30 - 4.30pm: Children

and young people abused through sexual exploitation

10 & 11 Mar, 9.30 - 4.30pm:

Foundation in child protection

12 Mar, 9.30 - 4.30pm: Child neglect

13 Mar, 10 - 4.30pm: Female genital mutilation (FGM)

17 Mar, 10 - 12.30 / 1.30 -

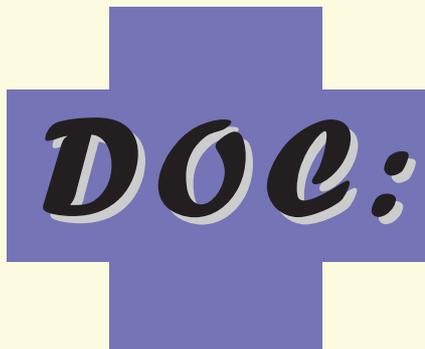
4.30pm (half day): All London child protection procedures

20 Mar, 9.30 - 4.30pm:

Safeguarding children living with domestic violence

☎ : 0208 356 4826

🌐 : www.hackney.gov.uk/chscb



developing organisations' capacity

issue 8 - Training and Development

learning resources, the VCS can benefit from access to shared learning opportunities. A very good example of cross sector learning is the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children's Board, they offer a quarterly programme for all children's practitioners in Hackney, for a list of upcoming courses see page 8.

Service users are at the heart of service planning. The introduction of the Common Assessment Framework is an example of where the VCS could provide a key role as the lead professional. The VCS needs to access opportunities for further training and development with Youth Service neighborhood support teams. Hackney Training & Employment Network are holding an event which covers the electronic Common Assessment Framework (eCAF), its implementation and possibilities for organisations supporting teenage parents on Tuesday 26 February - see page 14.

How HCVS can help:

This is a key area of work for the Capacity Development team at HCVS. Our new Fit for Purpose community training programme has a wealth of training for the sector - see pages 12 and 13.

Workforce Needs Analysis

For local VCS organisations, so employers can voice their skills gaps and barriers blocking intergrated working for their service area. We need your views to represent the VCS in cross sector planning to raise local investment in training.

Supplementary schools

HCVS is working with The Learning Trust and The National Supplementary Schools Resource Centre to raise the profile of Hackney based supplementary schools. We will run a quality assurance programme and are holding a Hackney Supplementary Schools joint event: 10 - 1.00pm Thu, 13 March at HCVS.

Children and Young People's workforce agenda

Over the next two years, HTEN, The Learning Trust and HCVS are working on the Childen and Young People's workforce agenda. The future changes are being planned now, have your say in our lunchtime focus groups at 1pm on 10 and 13 March.

📍 Kristine Wellington, HCVS ✉: kristine@hcvs.org.uk

For Children & Young People's workforce development you can also James Drummond, HTEN ✉: James@hten.org

📍 Workforce Development

General information:

📍: www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk

Sector Skills Councils:

📍: www.ssda.org.uk

Skills for Health:

📍: www.skillsforhealth.org.uk

Skills for Care and

Development: Social care, children, early years and young people's workforces:

📍: ww.skillsforcareanddevelopment.org.uk

Skills for Care:

📍: www.skillsforcare.org.uk

Children's Services including Social Care:

📍: www.cwdcouncil.org.uk

Lifelong Learning UK:

Community learning and development, further education, higher education, libraries, archives and information services, work-based learning

📍: www.lifelonglearninguk.org

Skills active: Sport and

recreation, health and fitness, the outdoors, playwork and the caravan industry

📍: wwwSkillsactive.com

e-skills UK: Information

technology and telecommunications and the lead body for contact centres on behalf of the Skills for Business network

📍: www.e-skills.com



The hospitality industry is offering exciting and rewarding opportunities with real scope for career progression and development.

Host's aim is to make these opportunities available to individuals who are currently not in employment but who have a genuine interest in working in the sector.

We will provide integrated support into work in the sector for three main groups:

- Young people aged 18-24
- Lone parents
- People in receipt of incapacity benefits for six months or more

The Host programme offers participants the necessary training and skills to move them into employment and offers them a choice of three routes:

- A practical-based "fast track" option that provides personal development, food hygiene certificate, skills for life and other relevant hospitality training as well as work experience. This option lasts for 13 weeks and is based at the Hoxton Apprentice, 16 Hoxton Square, London N1 6NT
- A 20-week college-based modular programme leading to an NVQ level 1 and includes a short work experience placement. This option is based at Hackney Community College, Falkirk Street, London N1 and the Zen Satori training restaurant at 40 Hoxton Street, London N1
- (Limited availability only) 13 weeks subsidised employment as an apprentice at the Hoxton Apprentice or Zen Satori training restaurants.

HOW WILL PARTICIPANTS BENEFIT FROM HOST? THEY WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING:

- Help with producing a personal plan of action to secure and sustain a job
- A personal coach to support them throughout the programme and for the first three months of their employment
- Access to specialist support such as benefits advice, child care, housing advice, debt counselling and others
- Support with language, literacy and/or numeracy where needed
- Help with moving into employment with a responsible employer committed to supporting continuing personal development and vocational qualifications.

WHAT IS HOST?

We are a partnership of four organisations collaborating to deliver the programme: Hackney Community College, Training For Life, WALTZ and the Wine and Spirit Education Trust.

This initiative is funded through Team Hackney.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Do you have candidates with a strong interest in working within the hospitality sector? Then please call Training For Life and speak to Saba on **020 7749 2802** or Tracy on **020 7749 2804** or email saba@trainingforlife.org



GYMTrain

@trainingforlife.org



What is GYMTrain?

Gym Train is a programme run by Training for Life that provides information, training and employment opportunities for people who want to work in the sports and fitness sector.

The programme combines employability skills, vocational training, and work experience in the sector.

Completion of the programme will provide participants with sustainable employment and a range of training and career opportunities.

Who is eligible for GYMTrain?

Unemployed Hackney residents aged 18-24

The Sports and Leisure Industry

The Sports and Leisure industry offers exciting and rewarding opportunities with real scope for career progression and development.

The range of jobs includes pool attendants, gym assistants, and reception work in leisure centres along with opportunities in sports retail.

Further training on completion of this programme could open up opportunities in fitness coaching.

Programme outline

- An initial 3 day engagement programme with introduction to fitness through martial arts, circus skills and sector specific employment information
- Individual assessment and individual learning and development plans
- Employability skills training
- Vocational training, with embedded basic skills training throughout and regular assessment by a qualified assessor
- Work experience placements
- Brokerage service to support recruitment into employment and continued learning
- Access to Training for Life's *In Touch website* and learner support services after programme completion
- Training will take place in the Hackney area; some work experience will require participants to travel in London.
- Training for Life is working with the Bob Breen Academy and Circus Space to deliver the GYMTrain programme.
- This initiative is funded through Team Hackney.



For further information contact the GYMTrain team on **020 7749 2801** or e-mail gymtrain@trainingforlife.org
Training For Life, 16 Hoxton Square, London N1 6NT Tel: 020 7749 2800

Investing in training proves a success!



Zarah Mohoboob,
training coordinator at HCVS updates SPARK on the

benefits of taking up a free workshop in the HCVS Fit for Purpose community training programme.

Time and money – in short supply in the voluntary and community sector but taking the time to invest in the right training for the people who volunteer or work for your organisation will help you win funding to deliver your project.

As part of our commitment to increasing the capacity of the local voluntary and community sector (VCS), HCVS offers a wide range of free workshops through our Fit for Purpose community training programme. In four months, over 80 people have attended workshops in areas such as fundraising, managing budgets, developing staff and marketing. Since attending training many organisations have been awarded more funding including Educators Forum who raised £30,000 following training by HCVS and Hackney Refugee Forum.

In December 2007, The Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (Acevo) released a report

which said that the voluntary and community sector should 'become as efficient and effective as commercially run operations' in order to meet the changing demands of the sector. At HCVS we have begun to recognise this - we have workshops which give organisations a step by step guide to writing a business plan, putting together an effective strategy and goal planning.

Our workshops are designed for everyone working or volunteering in the local sector. Once you have booked, together we work through an Individual Learning Plan to get you the skills you need.



HCVS workshop

Kome Owuasuu, African Community School said: "The Fit for Purpose Community Training programme is one of the best

training courses that I have attended. It was well structured and designed to meet the needs of the voluntary groups, as well as being a means of developing myself."

Funding for our Fit for Purpose community training programme comes from the Big Lottery Fund's BASIS programme, which is designed to increase the effectiveness of the third sector.

HCVS

☎ : 020 7923 1962

✉ : training@hcvsv.org.uk

Case Study: Educators Forum

Within months of attending training organised by HCVS and Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF), Educators Forum were granted £30,000 worth of funding.

Atakan Mercan, Nese Ercan and Sermin Aksoy from Educators Forum took advantage of the free support offered by HCVS and HRF through a combination of one to one development meetings, and Fit for Purpose training, which included finance, recruitment, fundraising, developing projects and partnership working. The training enabled the workforce of Educators Forum to develop the skills essential to running a voluntary organisation.

Atakan said, 'We had been meeting in cafes and cellars of cafes for about a year when we met Ali Riza from Hackney Refugee Forum. He encouraged us and confirmed our belief that we could contribute to an increase in the educational attainment of the Turkish and Kurdish communities. He introduced us to HCVS and a myriad of possibilities appeared.

Among these, I had a chance to attend a course in becoming a Funding Advisor. This was intense and demanding training. Our trainers shared their vast experience with us and made sure that we were equipped with the knowledge and the mindset to set up a viable infrastructure. They showed us how easy it was to trip and fall as well as how possible it was to achieve our goals. We secured more than £30K in funding some of which we simply could not have without their help. Plus, they are a lovely and interesting bunch of people. I hope HCVS will always be there to assist organisations like ours.'

Over the next two pages is a summary of all our training workshops from February to May 2008, listed in date order.

To book on any of these courses please contact Zarah Mohoboob at HCVS on 020 7923 1962 or email training@hcvs.org.uk for a booking form.

Courses in February 2008		
Date and Time	Number of sessions	Course Name and Description
Wed 13 Feb 08 / Wed 5 Mar 08 10am - 5pm	Two day course	Outcomes for Monitoring and Evaluation Outcomes are the changes, benefits or effects that your organisation makes happen as a result of its activities. Funders and commissioners increasingly want groups to demonstrate the outcomes of their service.
Wed 20 Feb 08 10am - 5pm	One day course	SORP: Understanding accounts and audit preparation The Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP) provides recommendations for the format and content of charity reports and accounts.
Mon 25 Feb 08 10am - 5pm	One day course	Annual budget and full cost recovery Full Cost Recovery means including all your hidden costs in your budget such as light, heating, staff, IT and stationery. Not including these costs in your funding application budget will leave your organisation short of money.

Courses in March 2008		
Date and Time	Number of sessions	Course Name and Description
Tue 4 Mar 08 10am - 2.30pm	One day course	Understanding financial systems and volunteer expenses Learn the basics of managing your organisation's finances and find out about the financial systems and legal requirements you need to have in place. We'll also squeeze something on getting volunteer expenses right.
Tue 11 Mar 08 / Tue 24 Apr 08 / Tue 29 Apr 08 10am - 1.30pm	Three day course	PQASSO Awareness PQASSO is Charities Evaluation Service' practical quality assurance system for small organisations. PQASSO provides a flexible, step-by-step approach to working out what your organisation is doing well and what could be improved.
Thu 13 Mar 08 / Thu 20 Mar 08 / Thu 27 Mar 08 10am - 4.30pm	Three part course	ILM - Team leading Level 1 Accredited Are you responsible for people in your organisation? This is specially designed to give practising or aspiring team leaders a solid foundation in their formal development as a leader.
Tue 18 Mar 08 10am - 5pm	One day course	Budgets and cash flow forecasts Do you get turned down for funding because your budget doesn't add up? Make the most of your cash so your organisation doesn't run out of funding.
Tue 25 Mar 08 10am - 4.30pm	One day course	Funding simulation workshop Have you ever wondered how grants panels assess your funding application? Get first hand experience of sitting on an assessment panel and score real funding applications.

Courses in April 2008		
Date and Time	Number of sessions	Course Name and Description
Tue 1 Apr 08 10am - 5pm	One day course	SORP: Understanding accounts and audit preparation The Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP) provides recommendations for the format and content of charity reports and accounts.
Wed 2 Apr 08 10am - 5pm	One day course	Annual budget and full cost recovery Full Cost Recovery means including all your hidden costs in your budget such as light, heating, staff, IT and stationery. Not including these costs in your funding application budget will leave your organisation short of money.
Thu 3 Apr 08 10am - 4.30pm	One day course	Goal Planning Have you got a bit lost in achieving the aims set for yourself and your organisation? Goal Planning is an essential business tool that is designed to bring about your desired outcome or dream. This course prepares you and your organisation to plan ahead, evaluate, and monitor you progress in your journey to fulfilling your personal goal and/or your organisation's vision.
Wed 23 Apr 08 10am - 1.30pm	One day course	Developing and Planning Projects that make a difference Have you got a great idea for a project but unsure how to take it further? Find out how to use project management tools to develop your idea into a project that will get you noticed by funders. Learn how to create a project plan that funders appreciate and are wowed by!
Wed 30 Apr 08 10am - 1.30pm	One day course	Partnership working Could your project benefit from working with other community groups or public sector agencies? Funders often prefer to fund a partnership of small organisations who work together on a service. We can show you what you should look for from a potential partner, how a partnership works and the types of policies and agreements you need in place.
Courses in May 2008		
Date and Time	Number of sessions	Course Name and Description
Wed 7 May 08 10am - 1.30pm	One day course	Key principles of marketing Need help promoting what you do? Marketing is how you promote and develop the services of your organisation to best meet the needs of your chosen audience. This is particularly important when working with hard to reach groups and getting funding.
Tue 13 May 08 10am - 4.30pm	One day course	Business Planning Why do voluntary and community organisations need a business plan? Not only does it look good to funders and commissioners but having a business plan helps you focus on the goals you want to achieve and plan how you are going to reach them.
Thu 15 May 08 10am - 4.30pm	One day course	Think strategically Do you know where you want your organisation to be in five years time? Learn how to create a strategic plan for your organisation to help you understand the practical actions involved in achieving your vision.

Winter Diary

Here's a list of events, meetings and workshops in early 2008. For more information subscribe to HCVS email news service, contact Gillian Trevethan ✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk

February

1 - 29 Feb: Discover Young Hackney

🌐: www.hackney.gov.uk

20 Feb, 2.30pm: Outreach Workers Forum

@ The Sharpend, 11 Richmond Rd London E8

☎: Momina 020 7923 8693

21 Feb, 10 - 1pm: Free New Equalities & Diversity/ Age Legislation Seminar @ ACAS,

Euston Tower, 286 Euston Road, London, NW1 3JJ

☎: Peter Murphy 020 8983 9716

21 Feb, 6 - 8pm: Hackney Community Safety Board

- aims to replace Community Police Consultative groups. @ Morley Hall, Mare Street E8

26 Feb, 3 - 5pm: Teenage Parents: New approaches to skills assessment and referral

@ HCVS, 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street E8

☎: 020 7249 7669 ✉: projects@hten.org

March

8 March: International Women's Day

1.30 - 3.00 10 Mar: Children and Young People's Providers Forum @ HCVS, 84 Springfield House,

5 Tyssen Street E8 ✉: jo_hscf@yahoo.co.uk

11 Mar, 10am - 4pm: BME Trustee -e- network: Training for Chairs & Trustees Workshops

@ CASS Business School, London, EC1Y

✉: anthony@bteg.co.uk ☎: 020 7843 6126

13 Mar, 10am - 1pm: Supplementary School Joint event with Speakers: ContinYou and The Learning Trust @ HCVS, as above

✉: zelina@hcvs.org.uk ☎: 020 7923 1962

17 Mar, 10 - 4pm: VCS engage - What next for the children's workforce

@ Local Government House, London

🌐: www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/children/cwdc/Home.htm

31 Mar, 8pm: Hackney Migrant Centre Opens

@ St Mary's New Church Rooms, Stoke Newington

✉: Rayah.Feldman@gn.apc.org

Hackney Green Drinks

@ The Pembury Tavern, 90 Amhurst Road, E8 1JH

Weekly events

Get Walking Get Walking: for people aged between 50 and 65 and living in Hackney

☎: Fred Agbah on 0207 339 8535

✉: freda@ramblers.org.uk

Urban Griots Collective: Performance & Songwriting Workshop on Thursdays for young people aged 16 - 25

@ Chat's Palace, 42 - 44 Brooksby's Walk E9

Every first Thursday of the month is a singer and songwriters showcase, jam and open mic

☎: 07833 996809

African Arts Project Presents Scrabble Club 3.00pm - 5.00pm every Saturday and Sunday

@ Howard Road Resource Centre, 6a Howard Road, N16 8PX

☎: 020 7254 3833

Beeraahaar Sweet Combination workshops

Reggae in yuh Jeggae - Calling all dancers to audition for a showcase! Thursdays, 7- 9pm

Lights Camera Action Drama Group Tuesdays, 7 - 9pm

Arts & Crafts Family Workshops, Wednesdays 5.30 - 7pm

@ 8 Palatine Road, Stoke Newington, London, N16

☎: 020 7275 9084

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SUPPORTING
THE COMMUNITY IN HACKNEY

**HCVS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2008**

10.30AM TO 4.30PM

AT: COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR REFUGEES
FROM VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA,
151 WHISTON ROAD, HAGGERSTON LONDON
E2 8BN

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, CONTACT
JENNIFER ROWE ON 020 7923 1962 OR
JENNIFER@HCVS.ORG.UK

Autumn Highlights

Already 2007 already feels like a long time ago, so here's a reminder of what Hackney's voluntary and community sector got up over the last few months.

① Souls: an exploration of deep emotions - an exhibition of well known artists such as Rosa Branson – was organised by **Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (PRA)**. PRA help people with mental health problems back into the community. Social inclusion is a great initiative but in practice it's difficult because of the stigma still attached to mental health problems.

① **Mirella Manni**

☎: www.praservices.org.uk

② Local MP Meg Hillier joined members, staff, and volunteers to celebrate **Hackney Credit Union's** second birthday during November. Hackney Credit Union is a member-owned organisation that provides straightforward and affordable loans and savings accounts to anyone living, working or studying in Hackney. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority so that members can be confident that their money is secure. There are currently 1,400 members and 340 Junior Savers with Credit Union accounts. *By Mary Cannon*

① **225 Mare Street**

☎: www.hackneycreditunion.co.uk

③ **Gillett Squared** held Winter Songs and Illuminations - music performances in Gillett Square in December. ① **Emma Jones**
☎: 020 7993 3644

④ Over 350 young people aged 12 – 18 took part in Teenage Kicks annual five-a-side football tournament in October. Organised by **SKY PARTNERSHIP**, five local young people received event management to help with the event. Pictured are the winning girls team: Heatwave. ① **Marlon Gayle**
☎: www.skypartnership.org.uk



①



②



③



④



⑤



⑥

⑤ Youngsters from the Hindle House estate gave two sparkling performances at Arcola Theatre thanks to a unique collaboration between Arcola Youth Theatre and the estate's **Friendly Playgroup**. Large numbers of the estate's residents were treated to a thrilling production, which followed a series of drama and costume and design workshops, part funded by the Local Network Fund. ① **Frances Newman**
☎: 020 7359 2019

⑥ Children's author Allan Ahlberg joined staff, volunteers, service users and their children at **Hackney Family Backup's** AGM in November. ① **See page 4.**

⑦ **Tohum Cultural Centre** celebrated their tenth anniversary in November with a weekend of celebration. There was lots of music, singing, dancing and a theatre performance. Young and old came together and held a frank discussion about the recent spate of suicides amongst young men in the local Turkish & Kurdish community. ① **Hanim Akdemir**
☎: 020 7275 4890

① **Please send in your photos of your Winter events and 50 words for the next SPARK.**
☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk ■



⑦



**Ngozi
Headley-
Fulani MA
Dakrobi Arts**

We have now reached the end of the Abolition 07 year. It has been quite remarkable and Britain engaged in commemorations on many levels.

I took the opportunity to reflect on my own (almost) quarter of a bicentenary. I remember when bus fares were under tuppence (2p), petrol was 10p a gallon from the paraffin trucks. There were no computers or mobile phones and TV had three channels which were all off by midnight.

Most African and Caribbean families had a front room, that was always kept prestige for guests and as a rule, children were not allowed in there. The Gram (gramophone) had pride of place in the corner. Almost all front rooms were identical from one house to the next, just the families were different.

It was not all good, I do remember my father having a dent in his head caused by being attacked by skinheads. This was a reality of those days.

As I reflected on this, I realised I knew very little about life when my father was young. Things have changed dramatically during my life and I am at the age where I am attending more and more funerals.

Spend more time with elders and children and share memories. This is a wonderful way to commemorate the Bicentenary and pass on history. *Ngozi* ■

DAKROBI - ARTS



Are you 15 - 24?

NEED HELP WITH MATHS, ENGLISH?

NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?

PERSONAL MENTORS, ADVISE, INTERVIEWS, WE WILL HELP YOU GET TO WHERE YOU WANT TO GO IN LIFE.

PLUS EDUCATIONAL RESIDENTIAL VISITS TO

THE LAKE DISTRICT / LIVERPOOL / DARSHAM

**Call Ngozi or Aaron on 07949 868 989 or email
dancemastergozi@aol.com**



IA journey with Bombo Productions



Journey of the Sacred Songs, pictured above, tells the story of songs which have travelled 5,000 miles and survived 500 years of Slavery, colonisation and political oppression.

Their melodies and rhythms weave though history into our present lives telling a true story with real heroes and real suffering.

Bombo Productions received £6,325 from the Local Network Fund, the project gave primary children an entirely different way of learning and identifying with African and African Caribbean history, geography, music and culture. *Written by Vicky Jassey*

📞 **Bombo Productions** ✉: vicky.jassey@gmail.com

EMASHI AFRICAN DANCE CLASSES



BEGINNERS

INTERMEDIATE

ADVANCED

WEDNESDAYS

6-30pm - 8pm African Dance 8 - 9pm African Drumming

Master tutors Ngozi Fulani, Dorinia Harley and Aaron Tanice.

Plus guest tutors

At Northwold Community Hall, Wield Square Northwold
Estate, Upper Clapton London E5

ALL AGES. ALL WELCOME.

dancemastergozi@aol.com 07949 868989

Members: children £1.50 conc £2.50 waged £3 Non members: Children £2.50 conc £3 waged £4



High Hill Smart Club,

run by Vicky Whyte and Mem Mehmet, is a highly successful holiday play scheme, which offers a variety of stimulating arts-based and sports activities to children and young people living in Springfield area. Based at High Hill Community Hall, the Club provides a forum in which children can play, and engage positively with one another in a safe and caring environment.

📞 **Yavonne Williams** ☎: 0208 806 4654

Nida Trust Football Academy (NTFA)

was set up to address the participation rate amongst Bangladeshi young people in sport. NTFA has more than 50 young people registered and are mainly from these wards; Victoria, Wick, Hackney Central & Chatham. NTFA holds football training once a week and further workshops on sports & youth related issues once a week. It also enters teams from the academy for football competitions. Parents and guardians are constantly used in the

📞 **Foezul Ali** ☎: 020 8536 1800 🌐: www.nic



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📞 **Gac Van Nguyen** ☎: 0207 739 365



Haggerston Community Fresh

Food stall has increased its usage as a result of support from Team Hackney Fast Grants. The small grant has allowed an extra 40 persons to become members of the Group and receive discounts on their fresh food costs. The Stall is open every Thursday from 10.00 to 4pm.

📞 **Michael Casajuana** ☎: 0207 249 4932

✉: hattreasurer@yahoo.co.uk

Fast track to

Elizabeth Adebola, HCVS Grants Manager, reflects on the success of the Team Hackney Fast Grants.

Fast track grants were awarded to 77 voluntary (VCS) organisations in Hackney in the first four Community Grants programme. Team Hackney programme to increase the way the borough's V in Hackney. There were three funding streams: of £1,000 to £5,000 and large grants of between

Our grants team worked round the clock to address the Community Empowerment Network (CEN). The tougher application process this year. We awarded applications and we are still processing the applications for Community Grants and we hope to let successful

Here's a snapshot of what was achieved by our some projects coming up in 2008 – check out o



planning process and support.

trust.org.uk

Community Centre for Refugees from Laos and Cambodia provides the following services:

For young people: These include mothering; homework support club; parents in activities; sportive games; dancing class.

For older people: We involve in pension and counselling day care, welfare advice; luncheon club twice a week, Tai Chi class.

✉: vlccentre@yahoo.co.uk



Fast track grant went towards covering rent, sessional fees and the purchase of equipment and enabled us "Urban Griots" to continue our regular performance/songwriting workshops and showcases at Chat's Palace for young people (12 - 25). This year's highlights were a string of successful singer songwriter showcases and the airing of our music video on MTV base.

📍 **Uzo Nwanaga**

☎: 07833 996809

✉: urbangriots@yahoo.co.uk

🌐: www.urbangriots.org

SUCCESS

(right) updates SPARK East Track Community



and community sector of the Team Hackney provided £750,000 of funding for the SPARKS can improve life for everyone who lives in Hackney. Fast track grants up to £1,000, small grants up to £5,000 and £50,000.

Administer this programme on behalf of the Hackney Council to everyone who applied, it was a success. We had just over £180,000 to 39 small grants applications for Team Hackney Large Grants. All applicants know the decision in March.

For fast track funded projects, there are still more in our diary on page 14 for more information. ■



Chatsworth

Road Methodist Church

Luncheon Club is open three days a week

for the elderly community: Yoga on Mondays, drop-in sessions on Tuesdays and a lunch club on Thursdays. The other two days are spent with administration and telephone contact with members. We aim to transform the lives of the elderly community, by taking them out of their homes to have recreational activities and friendship with other club members, we are also very good at promoting health awareness.

📍 **Beatrice McClean**

☎: 0208 985 2230 ✉: chatslunchclub@yahoo.co.uk

Making commissioning more accessible:

How the Community Empowerment Network is helping



Attendees discuss the implications of commissioning at a CEN event



Sonia Khan, HTEN Chief Executive talks to SPARK about CEN's work on commissioning.

For many years agencies like local government and local health trusts have funded the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to deliver services, which they think are best delivered outside of an institutional setting and its systems.

In recent years, funding for such services has changed from grant funding to commissioning. With grant funding, a funder would state its priorities and the VCS would say what it could deliver, which community it would work with and why the project was needed. Once funding had been approved, there was some degree of flexibility about delivery and outcomes. With commissioning, a funder is very specific - down to the exact services it wants to buy and who will benefit.

Commissioning is "The process of specifying, securing and monitoring services to meet individuals' needs at a strategic level."
Audit Commission

The local picture

At a local level, some neighbourhood renewal funding, which was overseen by what was Hackney Strategic Partnership (now Team Hackney) used to be accessible by the VCS through applications for funding. Now almost all of this funding (called Working Neighbourhoods Fund from April 2008) will only be available through commissioning.

Why the move to commissioning?

The reason for this change is that it helps funders look at the whole picture and targets its limited resources, and it makes it easier to measure the difference its funding has made.

Jane Woolley, Strategic

Commissioning Manager at Team Hackney says: 'the important thing to remember about the funding that Team Hackney receives from government is that it is short-term, and is designed to be invested in places and ways that will have the most impact. So our investment offers partners an opportunity to pilot new ways of working, and to meet changing priorities.'

What stops local groups from being selected to deliver commissioned services?

For a start knowing about commissioning and how to engage with the process. In response to this, the CEN organised a series of events linked to Team Hackney's commissioning rounds earlier this year. Each event included information about the commissioning round, questions and answers and networking slots.

I led the design and delivery of these events on behalf of the CEN. While the events were a

starting point in giving local providers information, we found that for a lot of groups attending the events, there were many barriers around commissioning. This included the following:

- o Commissioners often require a level of organisational development which is too advanced for most groups
- o The language used is often very technical
- o The contracts are too large and require one provider to deliver a universal service
- o The risks attached to running a service and being paid on outcomes are too high
- o Needs are identified by the statutory sector and commissioning responds to these needs. But local providers may see and respond to new or more specific needs. These services don't end up getting commissioned.

How has the CEN responded?

We ran a three part training course to help groups understand what commissioning is, whether it is for their organisation, identify what their organisational development needs are. They also got to talk directly to Jane Woolley, Team Hackney Commissioning Manager.

Jane said: 'It is invaluable to be able to talk directly to CEN members about commissioning and what this means for them organisationally, and we can then take this into account in designing future tenders. In 2007 we had some really helpful feedback about our tenders for provision of activities for young people, and as a result we will approach this quite differently in

2008, to try to alleviate the administrative burden from bidding organisations, and also to ensure we are much clearer about the criteria that tender assessment panels use to score bids.

What will we do in the future

Some of the barriers we have identified in this article cannot be overcome through events and training alone. We want to continue our dialogue with Team Hackney about making commissioning more accessible at every stage. Starting with always trying to make the first stage of commissioning (identifying needs) more reflective of the needs identified by grass roots groups.

One of the practical steps we are taking to involve grass roots groups in setting needs and priorities is the set up of voluntary sector networks linked to each of Team Hackney's thematic structures.

We also need to make sure that the VCS can still access grant funding programmes. Grant funding allows funders to fund groups, working with sections of the community whose needs may not be fully understood or quantified yet. ■

Sonia Khan is Chief Executive for Hackney Training & Employment Network (HTEN) and a Community Empowerment Network (CEN) representative.

① Sonia is running two more courses on commissioning at HCVS. Managing a commissioned project on 27 Feb 10.00 - 13.30 and Writing a tender on 19 Mar 10.00 - 13.30.

Visit the HCVS website:

🌐: www.hcvs.org.uk

CEN events are sent out through

Thoughts on CEN Commissioning Training



EFFIE FOTAKI

Local people make the most of An Viet's dance class

Zoe Howes, The An Viet Foundation: I thought the course was very well taught and informative. It confirmed a lot of things for me about commissioning and raised a lot of issues for us.

Commissioning is a generic process taking place across the whole country and doesn't take account of local needs. We work with Hackney's Vietnamese community so our services are locally driven.



Local schoolchildren taking part in 'Planting the Hothouse Event' 2007 supported by Hackney Voluntary Sector Grants Programme

Jane Bell, Free Form Art Trust: A really well designed course to help us understand - and more importantly get us ready for tendering for commissions. A lot of ground was covered in a short time and it was useful to have an open Q&A session with Jane Woolley. I got a lot out of it and I'm looking forward to future courses.

Reclaim your campaign VOICE!

In 2007, the value of campaigning by the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to reach people and affect social change was acknowledged by Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Government interest was highlighted in the third sector review, which had "enabling voice and campaigning" as one of its key themes and they have committed to consulting on overhauling Charity Commission regulations that limit charities in their campaigning role. Hackney is home to many successful campaigners, SPARK spoke to three campaigns on their issues.



Local residents campaign: Haggerston Pool Community Trust



Interview with Mike Coysh, Chair

What is it all about?

Haggerston Pool was a well loved local facility used by large numbers of people including the childrens swimming club (of which I was chair), training to professional standard. In 2000 the pool closed on health and safety grounds. At that time £300,000, could have put it in working order, but now it has deteriorated and the best solution is a major refurbishment.

What do you do?

We've organised Laburnum Street Party for last four years as well as hustings for Hackney mayoral candidates and a candle lit vigil for pools 100th birthday. We've collected signatures, run consultations for local people, sent out regular newsletters, opened the building for Open House - and ensured that it is regularly on the pages of local and London wide press.

We aim to remind politicians of the importance of the pool, and to keep local people involved.

What's the situation now?

Initially Hackney council's financial situation was such th the pool wasn't maintained enough to keep it open - partly because of the amount of money being spent on Clissold Leisure Centre. So our first task was to make sure that the building was still standing and not turned into flats. Now that the council is in a better financial state, we are much more optimistic. The council have written a feasibility study for a pool and healthy living centre - we want to make sure the momentum continues.

Anything else?

Sport and community health are key issues at present, with concerns about couch potato culture and childhood obesity - and its effects as the current generation grows older. It's ironic that we are spending vast amounts on the Olympics when a comparatively small amount could ensure much wider participation amongst ordinary people.

📍 Contacts

✉: info@haggerstonpool.com

🌐: www.haggerstonpool.com

☎: 0777 300 2646

Local arm of a London campaign: Hackney Cyclists



Interview Trevor Parsons, left, Coordinator (volunteer post)

What is it?

London Cycling Campaign (LCC) has 10,000 members – they join for the discounts in shops, the free third party insurance, and to be part of a strong and growing lobby. One thousand of those members live in Hackney, making us the largest local LCC group.

What do you do?

We try to represent the interests of cyclists, encourage more people to cycle and improve conditions on a local and regional level.

This means constant liaison with people who plan our streets, and encouraging employers and housing providers to sort out cycle parking and other cycling-friendly facilities.

LCC also provided the first small grant to STA Bikes, Hackney's grass-roots cycle training organisation, so they could hire professional instructors to deliver realistic cycle training in schools. Now the work is mainstreamed and Hackney has the largest cycle training programme in London.

Biggest success?

Getting rid of the one-way system in Shoreditch. That transformed the area from a frightening race track to somewhere ordinary people wearing ordinary (and some extremely fashionable) clothes think of cycling as the most normal and obvious way to get around.

What holds you back?

Before, we were knocking on doors and being ignored. Now our biggest restriction is our time as volunteers to answer requests for consultation or advice.

What is there left to do?

Some 10% of Hackney residents cycle regularly – we'd like to see this reach 25% as it is in cities like York and Cambridge. We have the remaining big one-way systems -- Stoke Newington, as well as Victoria Park Road and Cassland Road -- firmly in our sights. And to make all of our streets



Above: A Hackney family waits at the lights with a 'Doctor Bike' session going on behind them, courtesy of Hackney Cyclists

safer for walking and cycling, our London Mayoral election manifesto priority is for 20mph to be the default speed limit for London – something which looked unattainable seven or eight years ago, but is now quite conceivable.

Most of all, we'd like people to quit defining themselves as 'cyclist' or 'motorist', and just to accept cycling as an incredibly useful and enjoyable tool that's available to almost everybody.

Trevor Parsons

✉: info@hackney-cyclists.org.uk

🌐: www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk

☎: 020 7729 2273

Campaign for justice: Sam Hallam Campaign



Interview with Paul May

What is the campaign about?

Since 2004, 20 year old Sam Hallam from Hoxton has been serving life imprisonment for a murder he did not commit. The only evidence presented against him consisted of contradictory statements placing him at the murder scene.

How did the murder happen?

In October 2004, a fight broke out between two groups of young people in Finsbury. As a result, one boy, Essayas Kassahun, died later in hospital from injuries to his head.

Why was Sam Hallam charged with the murder?

The local police passed the case to the Specialist Crime Directorate in Belgravia, headed by Cressida Dick. Their remit is from organised gang crime to kidnapping and hostage taking. You can definitely say there was nothing organised about this case – even with the best police officers in the world, the mindset would be wrong.

Regrettably, for the first days they seemed obsessed with the idea that this was a race case, when it wasn't; both groups of friends were multi-racial.

Sam Hallam's case is unusual in that we are not suggesting police malpractice, more ineptitude. Sam's alibi was not corroborated, and there were statements given – and later retracted - placing him at the scene. Altogether nine young people were charged with murder – some only because they were present when it happened - they were witnesses not suspects.

The officers didn't have sufficient curiosity about what really happened.

Why was he convicted?

Seven of the accused were acquitted. In Sam's case the judge's summing up was a disgrace. The crucial witness agreed in court that they had originally made a statement placing Sam Hallam at the scene (which they later disowned). The judge said the witness had agreed with their original statement - that would have swayed the jury.



A lot of wrongful convictions come about by making the victim out to be "other" than the jury - like the Birmingham 6 being Irish, and young people being 'hoodies'. The suggestion is that you and I might not behave like this - and then you enter an Alice In Wonderland world where everything pointing to innocence is used to justify guilt.

How did the campaign start?

The core is Sam Hallam's family. And then a group of young people, who were outraged at what had happened, approached Hettie Peters from the Community Police Consultative Group for help. It's very rare that an initiative like this comes from people admitting to be present at a murder scene, and even more from some who have stood trial for the murder themselves and been acquitted.

What is the campaign doing?

We're collecting witness statements – we have six from people who have never given evidence – and we're anxious to get more. We know that about 40 people were present.

People can join the campaign through the website, and they can write to political representatives – it really helps. And we can send speakers to meetings.

Anything else?

I've never been involved in something where there is such widespread public concern. There were only five people at the first meeting of Birmingham 6 campaign. Whereas with this, just on word of mouth you can almost guarantee 300 to 400 people at a meeting.

Paul May set up the Bridgewater 4 campaign and led the campaigns for the Birmingham 6 and Judith Ward.

📍 Contact

✉: response@samhallam.com

🌐: www.samhallam.com

Other Hackney Campaigns

Save Our Cinema: see SPARK Autumn 07

Campaign to bring back the Kenninghall Cinema in Lower Clapton Road.

Contact: Julia Lafferty

☎: 0208 806 2441

✉: saveourcinema@hotmail.co.uk

🌐: www.saveourcinema.org

Manor Garden Allotments: see SPARK Summer 07

Campaigners held a “demolition day” march through Hackney on 23 September 2007, when the the final allotment holders were evicted and the land taken into the Olympic site. They continue to campaign and recently won a (posthumous) “Green Corners Award” for the allotments.

Contact through website

🌐: www.lifeisland.org

ESOL: see SPARK Summer 07

Campaign to oppose restrictions to provision of free English as Second or Other Languages.

Contact: Ali-Riza Aksoy

✉: info@hackneyrefugeeforum.org

🌐: www.ucu.org.uk and follow links for Save Esol

Clapton Neighbourhood Action Group (CPNAG) is supporting a

residents petition opposing a licensing application for a Sauna/Massage venue currently pending on Ground Floor, 201 Lower Clapton Road.

✉: ian.rathbone@tiscali.co.uk

📍 **Are you running a campaign in Hackney? Please get in touch, SPARK would like to talk to you!**

✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk

☎: 020 7923 1962 ■ LH

Get your CRB with HCVS



Nadia Capogrosso, HCVS Grants team announces that HCVS is now registered

umbrella body with Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

“If you need your staff, trustee members and volunteers to undergo a CRB check, please contact the Grants team. We would like to remind you that it is a legal requirement that individuals working directly with children and young people and vulnerable adults need to be CRB checked. If you are not sure whether you or other individuals within your organisation require CRB check, please contact us.”

📍 **Nadia Capogrosso**

✉: nadia@hcvs.org.uk

☎: 020 7923 1962 ■

Peter's Community Café

In the crypt of St Peters Church on the corner of De Beauvoir Rd and Northchurch Terrace N1

Peter's Community Café is part of the local community, especially welcoming those on low incomes, the isolated, and those who do not want to use more formal services.

We have cheap healthy food which is free for those who can't afford it.

Peter's Community Café is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from midday until 7pm

The café is

- Friendly and welcoming
- A place to meet new people or old friends
 - A place to read a paper or a book

Community and other groups welcomed.

If you know anyone who might benefit from somewhere quiet to be warm and comfortable or who needs a meal or a chat please tell them about us.

For more information please contact the London Catholic Worker on;

tel 0207 2490041 email londoncatholicworker@yahoo.co.uk

Change is in the air. The Local Government Bill, which empowers local authorities and their partners to have more say in how they allocate funds for regenerating their areas, is now the Local Government Act. Each local area, including Hackney, is close to reaching agreement over which 35 priorities out of a total 196 are most important for them, and which, therefore, they will negotiate with central Government. These will be agreed by April 08 and signed off by ministers in June 08. From next year, the Local Area Agreement (LAA) will become the only vehicle where Government will set targets with local authorities.



All change for the Local Area Agreement - What does it mean for Hackney?



As Hackney prepares to negotiate on its locally chosen suite of indicators. Ian

Lewis, director of Team Hackney, (above) answers some common questions.

Why are we re-negotiating something that was only agreed last year?

The performance framework has changed (see below) and the number of targets has been significantly reduced so we need to take account of this. Hackney's Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), Mind The Gap, was originally produced in 2004 so needs refreshing anyway. There have been several important developments since then, including the go-ahead for the East London Line into Hackney, and a greater understanding of the legacy needs arising out of the 2012 Olympic and

Paralympic Games. The refresh is giving us the opportunity to look at longer term goals.

What is Hackney doing?

The process of refreshing the SCS and the LAA began with three scenario planning exercises in September and October where senior council officers, politicians and partners, including the voluntary and community sector (VCS), came together to reach an understanding of the key trends that would drive change in the borough up to 2017. From this came a vision for Hackney.

“The new Local Area Agreements will re-draw the relationship between central Government and local areas. Each LAA will be unique, tailored to each place and to whatever the main challenges you face in your area.”

John Healey, MP, local government minister, 2007

What was the vision to emerge from these discussions?

There was a high degree of consensus about what the council's key goals should be, and what the risks are likely to be. A vision emerged of a more connected borough characterised by greater prosperity and opportunity for all of Hackney's residents – both those living here today, and those that will arrive in the future. There will be inevitable changes, but Hackney will retain pride in its diversity and better social cohesion.

Has the VCS been involved in developing the vision?

Yes, very much so. Jake Ferguson, chief executive of HCVS, as Team Hackney “board champion” for the LAA, has played a key role for the VCS in the scenario planning exercises, and in the partnership event in December. The VCS and Community Empowerment Network are represented now on all Team Hackney themed partnerships and more than a dozen community reps attended the partnership event. See left for the CEN vision.

How are the priorities selected?

The process is underpinned by a strong evidence base which has been compiled by the Council's policy team with input from partners. 'Medium Term Planning Trend Notes', which collate all the evidence can be downloaded from the Team Hackney website at www.teamhackney.org. The refreshed Community Strategy, and the performance data, will be used to lead Hackney's negotiations with GoL (Government Office for London). The LAA is the document which translates the vision outlined in the Community Strategy into specific targets to secure the improvements local people want to see.

What does this mean for funding?

The Government intends that there will be less ring-fencing and more pooled funding than previously. Once the new LAA has been agreed, it will be up to Hackney to decide how these pooled funds will be allocated. The strategic commissioning process used for 2007/8 will continue to be based on LAA targets and outcomes, as it is now.

How will the Government measure local performance?

Performance will be measured against far fewer indicators than previously – 198 as opposed to more than 1000 – and local areas will be given more leeway to decide on which priorities they most want to be measured on. The CPA (comprehensive performance assessment) gives way to the CAA (comprehensive area assessment), a new performance framework which will reduce the burden of reporting on targets and will be more outcome-based.

i For a glossary of local government terms, see the I&DeA website:

www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelid=71567

Timeline December 2007 - June 2008		
December 07 Hackney & GoL identified list of proposed priorities	March 08 Hackney submits revised outcomes & proposed targets	End June 08 Secretary of State designates up to 35 agreed targets
January 08 Hackney submits draft LAA priorities to GOL	June 08 Hackney submits LAA to GoL who make recommendations to ministers	

What do you hope for Hackney in ten years?

Community Empowerment Network (CEN) representatives joined Hackney's leaders and key decision makers at the Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement (LAA) Refresh partnership event to test out Team Hackney's future vision for Hackney and the priorities needed to achieve this.

In planning for this event the CEN considered what common themes should underpin Team Hackney's strategic priorities and what interventions would make Hackney a better place to live, work or study. In developing their vision, the CEN concluded that Hackney should be a Borough which puts people first, is rich in wellbeing and equality and is focused on those furthest away from well being.

The following are some of the issues raised:

- assessing the impact of a transient population or churn on community cohesion, health services planning, housing and crime
- the need for an accurate and up to date evidence base which includes the complex needs of our communities
- balancing the need to plan for the long term with the need to take action and achieve results now
- when tackling the area of worklessness, to recognise the value of social capital and the contribution made by people not in paid employment but who still make valuable social contributions in other ways such as carers.



Aliya El Agib, left, community rep for the Thriving Healthy partnership said: The partnership event contributed positively to the refresh of the LAA, the willingness to hear the voice and contribution of the VCS was noticeable, I hope our input will be taken on board by Hackney council.

We had a very tight timeframe to prepare for this especially given the many stories within Hackney's diverse VCS. Also, the fixed determinant areas for LAA need to be more flexible in their delivery to accommodate some of the areas not explicitly mentioned.

i For the Hackney Story of Place document

www.teamhackney.org

For the CEN story of place www.hcvs.org.uk



Enterprising Hackney

❶ Social Enterprise

A social enterprise is a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners.

If you have or are thinking about having a trading arm in the provision and delivery of your services then you could become a social enterprise, below are the basic requirements for establishing yourself as a social enterprise.

Top tips

1. You must have a governing document such as a signed and dated constitution, memorandum and articles of association
2. You must have a bank account, with at least two unrelated signatories for making withdrawals
3. You should have a management committee with a minimum of three members
4. You must have social aims and objectives
5. You should be enterprising and have plans to generate income through trading (charging) for some or all of your products or services.

Armed with these five key components and your business ideas the social enterprise route could be for you.

❶ **Contact Zarah Mohoboob at HCVS if you would like more information on starting or developing a Social Enterprise.**

☎: 020 7923 1962

HCVS ran an intensive training course designed to help voluntary and community organisations become social enterprises and gain alternatives forms of finance for their organisation. Congratulations to the six organisations who successfully completed the course and produced a business plan, ideas to generate income through trading, funding application for a minimum of £10,000, attendance at training sessions and surgeries to develop their social enterprise. All six will be attending a Graduation event on February 2008 at HCVS.

Read on to find out more about social enterprises and the experiences of four of the winning organisations and Clifford Hinkson and Christopher Alexander from CLR Management & Training Consultancy who designed and delivered the course in partnership with HCVS.



Hands Inc working with young people

PHOTOGRAPHY: EFFIE FOTAKI



The programme consultant: Clifford Hinkson, left

Presenting the programme has been a great pleasure and a good opportunity to utilise our skills and knowledge in this area to a diverse group of individuals, who by the end of the programme we believe, have a better understanding of the social enterprise sector.

The programme required a high degree of commitment and work from the attendees and we were pleased that the majority were able to see the long term benefit of the programme and complete it satisfactorily.

We found delivering the workshop element of the programme particularly interesting. It was an ideal platform to generate discussion, bounce ideas and seek varying opinions on whether the social enterprise was the correct (or incorrect) route to take for attendees. In addition participation at the one to one sessions attendees were able to clearly think about their business ideas, plan and develop initiatives on moving these ideas forward.

Common themes identified for future development included greater partnership working, stronger networking and developing an effective marketing and sales strategy.

Poly Art aims to provide high-quality interdisciplinary arts programmes and workshops to local communities of all ages and abilities.

Poly Art recognises that the appreciation and creation of artistic projects can play a positive role in engaging people young and old. We are working closely with both professional artists and community members to design programmes to suit needs and talents.

One of the programmes we are currently working on will bring together dance, music and drama practitioners to hold a series of summer workshops for young people to create a dance theatre collaboration. We will also recruit young leaders in the community who are interested in volunteering.

✉: infopolyart@gmail.com

Ancient Future provides educational activities using culture, creative arts, music, film, life skills and self-development. In 2007, we launched H.E.A.T. the Home Education Advancement Team which provides parents and children with fun and creative workshops to learn and get advice and support on children's educational needs.

Our group was interested in taking part in the social enterprise programme to develop our business arm and to look at new ways of sustaining

WINTER 08



ourselves as an alternative to grants. By helping us to develop a business plan and fine tune our income generative services and products, the training has enabled us to take the next step to securing a long future in the voluntary sector. We found the programme useful because it was clear, interactive and applicable and has assisted us in developing a realistic approach to becoming self sufficient and less grant dependent.

We have a 12 week project for families and continue to provide access to up to date information, news, training and learning materials for all of the family.

☎: 07506 481 509

🌐: www.ancientfuture.org.uk

Kingshold.com Social Regeneration has evolved into a social enterprise organisation in 2007. Our aims are to commission services from various statutory organisations and those that work with at risk young people.

The project provides social inclusive activities that are able to engage young people such as sports, music, dance and drama. Additionally, we provide mentoring, life coaching, a character self-esteem development group and one to one sessions.

Rehabilitation, self-actualisation to get a better lifestyle is generally our aim with at risk individuals. Those leaving prison

are vulnerable to re-offend because of instability, so we will be able to offer accommodation for at least 20 people from March 2008. Since becoming a social enterprise, HCVS and the CLR consultants have supported the project immensely and we are very much grateful.

☎: 0208 986 1319

At Hands Inc, we seek to inspire health and wellbeing through provision of holistic health activities. We aim to increase access to these services and raise awareness of their intrinsic benefits.

From our inception, we felt that in order to become sustainable we would need to grow an income generating arm to Hands Inc. We have seen too many good groups fade away when the funding ran out.

We work with community organisations, schools, mainstream agencies and corporate groups, supporting them to bring a more holistic approach to wellbeing for their service users, staff or clients.

Our three main service areas are Complementary therapies, Health Awareness workshops: and Work & Wellbeing - which includes lunchtime activities, Massage@Work and Team Building workshops. ■

🌐: www.handsinc.co.uk

✉: handsinc@handsinc.co.uk

📄 *Find out more about the Fit for Purpose Community Training Programme - HCVS' training programme, contact Zarah:*

✉: training@hcv's.org.uk

🌐: www.hcv's.org.uk

☎: 020 7923 1962

Bridging our Differences

An estimated 33% of the world's population were Christian in 2007 making it the world's largest religion. Closer to home, 46% of people living in Hackney name Christianity as their faith. Whilst this is a huge figure, it's worth remembering that under the umbrella of Christianity comes an array of churches and ministries, practising the faith in their own way. SPARK speaks to three local organisations delivering the Christian word according to their tradition - the African Caribbean Re-Union, St Scholastica's Catholic Church and Shout Pentecostal Community Ministry.



a message of reunion



Kaday Rose Kamara, left, from African Caribbean Re-Union:

The organisation began as a result of the death of my son. After this I received an anonymous letter informing me

who was responsible but the police failed to investigate and I was left helpless. One Saturday, after seeing the youths involved I wept bitterly. The next day I went to church, the sermon was on forgiveness and I felt strongly that the message was meant for me. I knew that my mission was to bring a message of reunion between African Caribbean and African people. I used the biblical story of Joseph and his brothers, where Joseph said to them that they meant it for evil but God meant it for good. This helped me to find the good in a very challenging situation.

The Re-Union was started in 1996 and our aim is based on 'Bridging our Differences'. We have a permanent exhibition called 'A Taste of Africa' to educate the general public about the cultural, artistic and historical wealth of Africa. Since 2005, when I learnt the reasons for the atrocities Africa has experienced leading to slavery to the present day, we have taken our exhibition to places such as, Brixton and Holloway prisons; Shoreditch College; Crown Prosecution Service and the New Testament Church of God, Clapton, to build understanding and communication.

Our passion is reconciliation and healing amongst all, especially those in the African and Caribbean communities. We welcome groups who want us to present our exhibition to them.

African Caribbean Re-Union: Representatives from Jamaica sharing their history

a living relationship with Christ



Father David Barrow, left of St Scholastic's Catholic Church:

I came to the Hackney parish just over a year ago and I'm still getting to know the congregation and understand the needs in this area. Saint Scholastica was the sister of Saint Benedict and the first church was built here in the 1860s.

My congregation is composed mainly of West African, West Indian, Ghanaian and Nigerian; a usual mass will have around 550 people. On a weekend, we have four Sunday masses, then we have a daily mass in the week. I normally try to get some time for myself and at the moment we have a Nigerian priest staying with us until December. A big part of what we do is to try and inform people, to give them a perspective on faith, so that they have a living relationship with Christ instead of receiving it second hand. This then reverberates throughout their life, in their families, schools and communities.

We do try to reach out to people in ways other than mass; it's only an hour long and not enough for people to understand the faith deeply. The primary challenge today for a church like this is to exist in a society that no longer shares Christian values because you can be preaching a message that people are indifferent to.

a ministry on your doorstep



John Jeffers, left, Minister of Shout Pentecostal Community Ministry

The Shout Community Ministries began in 2003 as an outreach, having one Sunday service a month. In 2005, we began having a service every week in the tenant's hall here on the Nightingale Estate. It's still a very small church and we have a lot of young people coming through. Essentially it is a Pentecostal church, where we have a spiritual experience of God and a knowledge of the bible.

It's different because people don't really want to go into a church building, being at a community hall has a different atmosphere and feeling also people don't feel like they have to get dressed up to be a part of the congregation. It encourages a lot of the kids to come along because it's about being relevant and touching the community where they are at. A ministry on their doorstep.

During our service we have a time of worship and prayer we also have a time to share the scriptures and singing but mainly its very relaxed, we try to break it up so that people can engage in different ways. The main focus is building people's characters because we find a lot of morals in the community have gone. More negative influences such as crime are prevalent and we are trying to put back some of those spiritual values into young people's lives.

■ CQ



Young people at Shout

More information:

African Caribbean Re-Union

63 Churchill Walk, London E9 6EU

☎: 020 8986 4090

✉: africarib.reunion@tiscali.co.uk

Shout Pentecostal Community Ministry

18 Olympus Square, Nightingale estate
London E8 2HJ

☎: 0208 985 8687

✉: ushout@yahoo.co.uk

St Scholastic's Catholic Church

17 Kenninghall Road London E5 8BS

About Christianity

Christianity is a monotheistic religion based on a belief in one God, with three elements: God the Father, God the Son and The Holy Spirit. Christian faith is centered on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth in the New Testament. Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God as the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament, and that the New Testament records the Gospel that was revealed by Jesus.

Christian worship involves praising God in music and speech, readings from scripture, prayers of various sorts, a sermon, and various holy ceremonies (often called sacraments) such as the Eucharist.

Upcoming Christian festivals are:

Lent: the forty days before Easter, traditionally a time of fasting and reflection. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and begins with Ash Wednesday - this year it's on Wednesday, 21 February.

Mothering Sunday: the fourth Sunday of Lent. Traditionally, it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family. This year it's on Sunday 18 March.

Easter: the most important Christian festival and the one celebrated with the greatest joy. It celebrates Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, three days after he was executed. This year it's on Sunday 8 April for both Western and Orthodox Christians.

Types of Christianity include:

Church of England: England's state church.

Pentecostalism: emphasises the Holy Spirit and the experience of God's presence. Pentecostals believe that faith is not something found merely through ritual or thinking. They believe they receive 'gifts of the Spirit', including speaking in tongues.

Roman Catholic Church: based in Rome and headed by the Pope, it's the oldest institution in the western world.

Orthodox Christianity: Essentially the same but not the way of life and worship.

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

HCVS 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@hcv.org.uk ■

The Conservation Foundation in partnership with O2

The awards are designed to support individuals and groups seeking to make a positive change in their community. The 470 plus projects so far awarded throughout the UK represent different aspects of our communities - social, cultural, sporting and environmental - and they all share the common theme of bringing people together to make a difference.

Grants available: Up to 60 projects from across the UK receive awards of up to £1,000 every month.

📍: www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk

📞: 020 7591 3111

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - New Funding Approach

The majority of their funding will now be channelled through the Main Fund - an open, less prescriptive way of working, through which they will listen to ideas. They expect to fund a wider range of work including core and project costs, although their core interests remain in culture, education, environment and social development.

Three new areas are: biodiversity, museum and heritage collections and new approaches to learning.

📞: **020 7297 4700**

📍: www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

Allen Lane Foundation

The Allen Lane Foundation no longer has closing dates.

Applications will be processed continually. The Foundation wishes to fund work which: will make a lasting difference to people's lives rather than simply alleviating the symptoms or current problems; is aimed at reducing isolation, stigma and discrimination; and encourages or enables unpopular groups to share in the life of the whole community.

Beneficiaries: asylum-seekers and refugees; gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people; gypsies and travellers; offenders and ex-offenders; older people; people from black and minority ethnic communities and migrant workers; people experiencing mental health problems; people experiencing violence or abuse.

The Foundation will make grants for start-up, core or project costs.

📍: www.allenlane.org.uk

📞: 01904 613223

UnLtd Big Green Challenge

NESTA believe that encouraging people to work together will help find new ways - better ways - to tackle BIG problems, like reducing CO2 emissions. That's why they've developed a unique and exciting competition – with a £1 million prize fund - the Big Green Challenge from NESTA.

It's designed to encourage and reward people working together to develop new approaches to saving energy. It's only open to organisations or groups of people. These will need to be formally constituted as 'not-for-profit', although new groups can apply for this status later.

Closing date: 29 February 2008

✉: admin@biggreenchallenge.org.uk

📍: www.biggreenchallenge.org.uk

Red Nose Day UK programmes 2005-08

Beneficiaries: Young People; around issues of alcohol, mental health and those being sexually exploited or trafficked; Older People; Mental Health; Refugees & Asylum Seekers; Domestic Violence. They make two types of grants in their open programmes.

Main Grants: Over £5000, small and medium-sized projects as well as a few larger and longer-term grants where appropriate.

Closing date: 29 February 2008.

Small Grants: Up to £5000. You can apply for a small grant in the following three programmes only: Disadvantaged Communities; Older people; Mental health.

Closing date: None

They can give grants for running costs and capital costs.

📞: 020 7820 5555

📍: www.comicrelief.com

£130m Grassroots Grants

'Grassroots Grants' will launch soon with £130 million available from 2008-2011. It will be divided into two parts: an £80 million small grants fund for community organisations; and a groundbreaking £50 million endowments programme to enable local foundations to generate additional donations from the private sector on a matched basis and invest them in endowments, thereby building their capacity to provide long-term funding for frontline community organisations.

Grassroots grants will support **local community based activity in small voluntary and community groups**, whilst building the capacity of local funding partners and sustaining small grant giving.

☎: 020 7833 1772

🌐: www.cdf.org.uk

BIG - Advice Plus Round Two - England

Round Two will fund third sector legal advice services that collaborate with other advice services in their local area. Advice Plus will only fund projects focusing on legal rights and responsibilities.

Closing date: 1 April 2008. Total funding is £50 million between 2006 and 2009 (£20 million in round 2) with minimum grant of £10,000 and maximum £500,000.

☎: 08454 10 20 30

🌐: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Tilley Awards 2008

The Tilley Awards publicise the use of problem-oriented approaches to crime reduction and what can be achieved by tackling crime in a different and more strategic way.

The awards seek to encourage different agencies to work

together in partnership to create sustainable solutions to long term, recurring problems within local communities.

The first prize for the national award has increased to £10,000; they are introducing 10 regional awards based on the 10 Government Office/WAG areas; entries received by 29 February will be eligible for the pre-marking service and receive feedback and recommendations on how to improve their application before the closing date on 25 April.

For an application form, please send an email entitled 'Request for application form' stating which Government Office covers your organisation.

✉: tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

🌐: www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/tilley/tilleyawards2008.htm

£50 Million

loan fund available to social economy organisations

We are so confident in the future growth of the sector that we have launched a £50 million loan fund which will be used exclusively for social economy organisations.

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Kicking up a storm at Dalston Youth Project

Introducing Nathaniel Stevens of Dalston Youth Project - or DYP - an organisation working with local young people and families.

How did you get involved ?

I was working in Hackney Free Secondary School as part of the behaviour improvement programme. When my contract came to an end at the school I was approached by the project and told there was an opening. It was an organisation I had heard of before and it had a very good reputation, so I was pleased to be offered a role.

How long ago was that?

14 months ago.

Essentially, what does the project do?

DYP offers a wide range of products and services to young people, families and the wider community. Services include our transition programme that supports young people moving from primary to secondary school. We run a Key Stage 4 alternative provision programme commissioned by the Learning Trust with the aim of removing potential barriers to learning. We have a recognised mentoring programme that has been running over 10 years and we now deliver parenting programmes, manage a junior youth inclusion programme and support a youth led focus group, amongst other things.

Are all the projects education oriented?

Not all of them, as well as supporting academic achievement, we also promote



Nathaniel Stevens, third left social work around self-esteem, personal development and anger management.

What does a typical week hold for you as a project coordinator?

I carry out a lot of planning, monitoring and evaluation on all the projects, we record data from the work that's happening. We organise a timetable of work and spend a lot of time talking to a wide range of people from other organisations.

What impact do you think the project has on the young people you work with?

It has an immense impact, the impact can't really be measured on a piece of paper and that's one of the things that lets down a lot of services like these; people often only recognise things they can quantify or summarise and the great work that goes on in Hackney just can't be measured like that.

Tell us about your work in conjunction with HCVS?

The training I did at HCVS was to help me inform and work with my focus group; we tried to create

real life experiences and opportunities for them. I worked closely with HCVS and 11Million - The Children's Commissioners Office - and we took a group of young people away on a training programme called 'Ready Steady Start'; this was about developing skills to set up your own company.

Where do you see the project going in the future?

There's a lot of potential, I think we're on the verge of taking it to the next level in terms of the work being a lot more creative and innovative. The parenting programme has been so successful that we are finding it difficult to meet the demands. So in that respect 2008 will be a great year in terms of development and expansion.

Any news you want to tell us about?

One of our projects produced a DVD called 'Guns, Gangs and Crime' and that has kicked up quite a storm around the borough and beyond, that will be premiered this year. That was with Ancient Future and Hackney Community Safety Team. Mentoring is due to expand and all the other programmes are due to grow. ■ CQ

More information:

Nathaniel Stevens
Dalston Youth Project
The Round Chapel
Powerscroft Road
London E5 0PU

☎: 020 8985 4576

✉: natstevens25@hotmail.com

Hackney News

Mental Health Matters



A local member of the Orthodox Jewish community, Jose Martin, has recently been appointed to The East

London NHS Foundation Trust as Hackney's black and ethnic minority (BME) mental health representative.

Jose attends five Members Council meetings a year where she aims to get mental health issues firmly on the agenda.

A key concern for Jose is to get a workforce which is representative of local people in Hackney. Jose says: I want to encourage people from the ground to train into jobs – a kind of earn and learn scheme - in five years we could have a more representative workforce that's homegrown. Mental health is very cultural and it's important we have practitioners who already know the culture and speak the language of the patient. Not only to fully understand what the patient is saying but also to clearly communicate future therapy to reassure the patient of what will happen to them.

Jose runs Talking Matters, which promotes stress prevention in the Orthodox Jewish Community. Services include counselling, cultural awareness sessions and counselling training. ■

📞 **Jose Martin**

☎ : 0208 802 9222

✉ : Jose@TalkingMatters.info

Hackney Wick gets a Community Map

Residents of Hackney Wick have started work with London 21 to develop a web-based interactive map to actively take part and influence the proposed changes currently planned for the area.



Hackney Wick will be greatly affected by the 2012 Olympic site. After the first Community Map meeting in December, children from Gainsborough Road Primary School have started making their own personalised maps, highlighting places they like in their community. These will be presented by the kids at the next workshop which is on 1 March from 10am - 3pm at Hackney Wick Community Centre.

London 21 Sustainability Network promotes, supports and networks community-based initiatives for a greener, healthier and more sustainable Greater London. ■ www.london21.org

Introducing timeline

Timeline

TimeLine is an exciting lifelong learning project centred on Hackney. Working together with local communities, ordinary people discover and present a kaleidoscope of information about the history of their own area.

Timeline newsletters are stuffed with stories and pictures, games and quizzes, interviews and memories, that all help to make Hackney's history and heritage come alive. People of totally different ages, cultures and backgrounds can communicate with each other through a common understanding of Hackney's inspirational history and heritage. ■

📞 **Camilla Loewe**

🌐 www.timeline.org.uk

New Museum for River Lea?

Leabridge ward councillors welcomed an agreement between them, Vision Homes (developer of the 142 Leabridge Rd site), British Waterways and Hackney Council to explore setting up a new museum of the River Lea and its Hackney connections in the Grade II listed Old Schoolroom building in Leabridge Road.

Cllr Ian Rathbone said, 'We think this can be an exciting place to visit, to relax and explore the river's heritage, with a small café, art gallery, bookshop. We are asking organisations like the Olympic Development Authority, Hackney Council, The Mayor of London for cash support. Due to the developer's timescales, we only have until February to find the money. ■

📞 ian.rathbone@tiscali.co.uk

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To check availability, please contact

Jennifer Rowe on

020 7923 1962 or

jennifer@hcv.org.uk