



HCVS

developing
success:
hampden
street meals



CEN

hackney
environment
network
conference



NEWS FROM THE SECTOR

opportunities
for older people

the magazine for Hackney's voluntary and community sector by HCVS

SPARK



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a green life in Hackney:

pioneering sustainable living



① See page 17

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PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY!

11 June: HCVS funders fair, AGM and
adiaha antigha community achievement
awards at Fellows Court Community Hall

Spring Issue 09



Welcome to the Spring issue of **SPARK**, which contains news on environment groups in Hackney and the refreshed Hackney Environment Network, funded through the Community Empowerment Network. We also have news of our core contract from Team Hackney, that is designed to help us support your VCS group. Tell us what you think - with this magazine there is copy of our user survey. Please take the time to fill it in - you could win a digital camera! **Gillian**

contacts

**Produced and designed by -
Gillian Trevethan**

✉: gillian@hcvs.org.uk

☎: 020 7923 1962

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.

Get your story in SPARK!

We are always looking for stories from the VCS, if you would like to submit an article or discuss ideas for upcoming features please contact us.

To keep up to date with news on Hackney's VCS, join our email news service, contact Gillian above!

Get your CRB with HCVS

"If you need your staff, trustee members and volunteers to undergo a CRB check, please contact the Grants team. 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." **i Nadia Capogrosso**

✉: nadia@hcvs.org.uk ☎: 020 7923 1962



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

Hackney young people launch hard-hitting docu-drama on policing

Elevate

More than 70 young people from Hackney hit the red carpet for the launch of docu-drama, Connect Cett4, by Hackney's Fawcett Youth Committee, as part of Elevate's Cett4Film project, supported by Kaspar Films, Cityzen and Hackney Youth Support Team. Young people aged 11-19 applied for funding from the RSA's Award for Innovation in Youth Provision and Hackney Youth Opportunity Fund and produced the film. The launch was introduced by young people from the project, followed by question and answers with Phil Poole, Partnership Sargent, Hackney Police. Anna Nina Koduah, age 14 said: "After several weeks of coming together and telling our stories and incidents involving police and young people, we decided to make this docu-drama based on our own true stories. We are using this film to show adults and others how we think the relationship between police and young people should change." ■ ⓘ Elevate ☎: 020 7017 2039 📧: www.elevateuk.org



Photography: Olivia Harris Oliviaharris@mac.com

City Hall hosts young people's art project

Hands Inc



Exploratory Art: Hands Inc's Maria Galvez and Eileen Bellot with James Cleverly

On 4 March 2009 Hands Inc launched their Inner Art Programme exhibition at City Hall. The exhibition was formally opened by James Cleverly, the Mayor's Ambassador for Youth. The Inner Art programme was a Self Exploratory Art project funded by Team Hackney and engaged with young people from Hackney who had become involved with crime and anti social behaviour. James said "Programmes like the 'Inner Art' project can help build self-esteem and raise aspiration. The exhibition gives real insight into the lives of the youngsters, especially in terms of postcode rivalry, showing the pride but also the fear and anxiety the youngsters have attached to their postcodes. We need to work with young people on these issues to support and guide them so that they grasp the opportunity to turn their lives into ones of real success." ■

ⓘ **Hands Inc** ☎: 0203 051 8626 📧: www.handsinc.co.uk
Photography: Effie Fotaki info@effiefotaki.co.uk



Crib launches one o'clock club

Grassroots youth project, The Crib launched a One O'clock Club on Saturday, 7 March. Dedicated to Barrington Williams who passed away back in 2006, the club holds parenting classes four days a week for young mums aged 14 to 25. It's based on the Milton Gardens estate on Shakespeare Walk N16. Pictured are Prutpal Singh, Barrington's mum Beverley Williams, Speaker of Hackney, Ian Rathbone, Janette Collins from The Crib and Secretary of Milton Gardens Tenants Association Diane Watts. The club is funded by Team Hackney. ■ ⓘ **Pele Reid** ☎: 07813 901 751 📧: the.crib@hotmail.co.uk

I Get to know **Anika Patrice**



Indira Rambhojun, left, from Anika Patrice, an organisation for people with learning difficulties and their parents and carers speaks to SPARK.

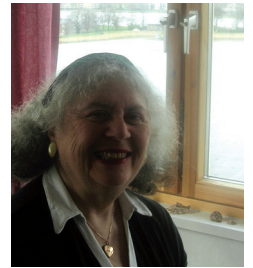
"Anika Patrice was set up in 1991 by Rani Ogundipe, to discuss new ideas and to search for a way forward to combat the huge gaps in service provision in the 90s, particularly for people with severe learning difficulties. Initially set up to provide support for people of African, Caribbean, Asian and Turkish heritage, our door is open to all parents and carers who need our services.

I was working as a community nurse when I first met Rani and became very passionate about the work of the organisation. I was in the management committee at the beginning and now I am the Respite Coordinator. Four evenings a week 25 local adults with a range of learning disabilities are collected and taken to our Stoke Newington base. We encourage them to do all the things able bodied people can do – to enable and enhance their individual strengths and meet their needs. We have music workshops, and we are planning a drama workshop, where our users can show what it's like to have a learning disability and a summer residential trip.

We spend one day a week on outreach, supporting the families of our users. Carers can find it hard dealing with professionals, they feel they have become lost in the system. We are always looking for volunteers, if you would like to give some time it's very rewarding and you learn a lot from it." ■ **Indira Rambhojun** ☎: 020 7923 9033 📧: www.aporg.co.uk

Are you looking for activities for older people?

Doreen Farren, right, outlines how you can join the University of the Third Age (U3A).



"Hackney's U3A has been running for three years, we make use of our collective talents to run a variety of classes including music, science, philosophy, current affairs and quilting. We have 95 members, it's informal learning, more for fun than anything. My specialism is music, it's completely self-indulgent! I play whatever I or the group fancies. I cover history as well as appreciation of classical, jazz, symphonies. It always goes down well.

Enthusiasm is infectious - when people see you enjoying it, they do as well.

We are looking for members and to work with other older people's groups to broaden our membership. To join, you pay a yearly subscription of £11.50, this includes classes and four U3A magazines. ■

Doreen Farren ☎: 020 8802 5755 📧: paul.farren@hotmail.co.uk



See page 17

Talking Matters - first UK Jewish organisation to join the NHS !

Talking Matters Wellbeing Centre has been awarded mainstream NHS status from April 2009 thanks to three of their highly successful programmes. The CHOICES Programme, counselling for Holocaust survivors and their families, the Tots to Teens Programme for five to fifteen year olds and The Portals Programme, which provides stress prevention and wellbeing training to voluntary and community groups, schools and local businesses. ■ **Jose Martin** ☎: 020 8802 9222 📧: www.talkingmatters.info

CEN Hackney's community networks

What is Hackney Community Empowerment Network (CEN)? Hackney CEN exists to raise issues in the Team Hackney partnership boards from voluntary and community sector (VCS) networks and groups, speaking on behalf of their membership – to help shape the policy and service delivery of the Team Hackney partners.

Five reasons to join a community network!

1. Meet other VCS organisations working in the same field to exchange experiences and build up partnerships
2. Join with other groups to raise issues together as a network that you cannot resolve as a lone organisation
3. Receive information on policy developments
4. Find out about funding and training opportunities
5. Meet policy leads from Council, PCT, Learning Trust or Team Hackney.

Won't joining a network take up a lot of time?

Networks hold regular meetings which are advertised in advance, so you can attend if the topic is relevant to you. They also circulate information of interest to network members. On the right are two examples of how, by supporting networks, the CEN has helped some positive changes take place.

Have we missed out your network? Below are some networks we know of, not all are funded through CEN or directly involved with what we do. Let us know if we have missed yours so we can help advertise your work.

Interested in setting up a network where there is a gap in representation? Come and speak to us – and look out for the CEN cross cutting network fund coming out soon. ■

📞 Liz Hughes ☎: 020 7923 8184 ✉: liz@hcv.org.uk or 🌐: www.hcv.org.uk

CEN Network success!

1. Hackney Environment Network

Through a CEN Cross Cutting Network Grant, Hackney Environment Network has developed its structure, held the first Environment Conference – and become the key community partner on the Team Hackney Sustainable Environment Subgroup, helping to influence the policy and service from all statutory partners in relation to the environment. [see page 14]

2. Hackney Turkish and Kurdish Forum

CEN supported the launch of this network to bring together small Turkish and Kurdish VCS groups in Hackney. A key concern in this community is young people, who make up one of the largest groups of young people in Hackney and are recognised to have separate needs, including language, culture, particular risks of mental health (such as suicide) and involvement in gang culture. By bringing the Council's Youth Service to their network meeting, they found that out of the 22 members of Hackney Youth Parliament - none are Turkish or Kurdish and only one out of 60 people in the youth forums is. These young people are under-represented in the use of youth clubs. As a result of this meeting, it was agreed that the young people would work with the Youth Service to set up a Turkish /Kurdish network of young people directly linked to the youth parliament – enabling them to voice their needs.

List of Hackney community networks

Black & Ethnic Minority Arts Network (BEMA)

✉: bemaadmin@hcv.org.uk

Drug & Alcohol Services network

✉: Patricia.Salt@chalcoldservice.org.uk

Black & Ethnic Minority Working Group (BEMWG)

✉: post@bemwg.org.uk

Economic Development Partnership Network

✉: liz@hcv.org.uk

Charedi Community Bridging and Bonding

✉: melanie@interlink-foundation.org.uk

Hackney Advice Forum

✉: info@penandy.co.uk

Children and Young People's Providers Forum (CYPFF)

✉: kristine@hcv.org.uk

Hackney African Forum

✉: haafo@yahoo.co.uk

Council for Older People

✉: cfop@cfophackney.org.uk

Hackney Educators Forum

✉: serminbayer@hotmail.co.uk

Disability Backup

✉: catherine@hfbu.org.uk

CEN Hackney Refugee Forum



Come along to our next Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF) meeting on 23 April at HCVS. Joining us will be solicitor Farshid Ariyan, talking about new legislation on immigration and citizenship and someone from Refugee Voice magazine on the main issues for refugee, asylum seeker and migrant organisations.

Below, take a look at three exciting HRF projects.

ESOL Forum: This new forum is taking its first steps, thanks to the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) reps who raised ESOL through the Skills Strategy Implementation Group of Team Hackney. We look forward to working with Team Hackney, The Learning Trust and build on support from CEN and Hackney Community College.

Impact of recession on refugee communities - If you are interested in taking this forward, HRF is meeting again at 3pm, 14 April at HCVS.

Drug & Alcohol research with DAAT - Together with Hackney African Forum, we are researching drug and alcohol use in black and ethnic minority

(BME) communities in Hackney. Twelve volunteers surveyed over 200 people for this project funded by Hackney's Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). Pictured left are our volunteers analysing this research. The results will be available in June. ■

📞 **Ali Aksoy** ☎ : 020 7923 1962 📧 :

www.hackneyrefugeeforum.org.uk

Updates from member organisations



Educators Forum, our sister group and one of the leads in the new ESOL Forum, left, celebrated a move to premises and launched the Hackney Info

Pack for Turkish and Kurdish speakers in January. Their innovative projects in Hackney primary schools include: a successful Bookworm project held last year in Princess May school and repeated at Morningside school with an emphasis on environment. a Book club for mums and pupils in Burbage school and a family Numeracy course in Daubeney school. They are also running a GCSE Maths course with Turkish language support with City and Islington College. Their Info Pack about education has received positive feedback from Turkish and Kurdish parents and children, and the Forum has been asked to produce similar projects. ■

📞 Get involved and find out more about the Forum. Join their weekly meetings at the Teachers Centre, 60 Windus Road N16 6UP. Their second AGM is on 25 April, 4 - 7pm - see page 20

Hackney Migrant Centre celebrated their first birthday last month – 239 people made use of their weekly drop in advice service this year. Join their AGM 13 April at 8pm - see page 20 or call ☎ : 07504 332 706 ■

Hackney Environment Network (Hackney Environment & Hackney Parks Fora) ✉: hackneyenv@tiscali.co.uk	Hackney Turkish Kurdish Network ✉: rwca1991@hotmail.com
Hackney Environmental Educators Network ✉: Robert.Sambrooks@learningtrust.co.uk	Hackney Women's Forum ✉: hackneywomenforum@yahoo.co.uk
Hackney Francophone Organisations Network ✉: sosfamilies@aol.com	Hackney Youth Provider Networks (facilitated by Hackney Youth Service ✉: f.ali@nidatrust.org.uk)
Hackney Refugee Forum ✉: ali@hackneyrefugeeforum.org.uk	Inter Communal Dialogue ✉: f.ali@nidatrust.org.uk
Health and Social Care Forum Includes Special Interest Groups: Mental Health, Older People, Physical Disability and Learning Disabilities ✉: jackie.hscf@googlemail.com	Linkup Hackney (capacity building) ✉: rebecca@hcv.org.uk



‘This is a significant investment which will help make the environment for the Third Sector stronger and HCVS a better organisation.’

**Jake Ferguson,
Chief Executive
HCVS, above**

Welcome

community sector (VCS) development. It's called CORE because we now have a two year core contract with Hackney Council that provides us with vital resources to support your VCS group. The core contract covers a host of areas:

to our new section CORE which aims to keep you up to date with key issues affecting voluntary and

Advocacy and representation

Developing the Community Empowerment Network and local VCS networks to influence Team Hackney, the local area agreement, and Sustainable Community Strategy. Part of this includes supporting the networks to become more sustainable, providing network grants, and ensuring Team Hackney and the CEN have a strong focus on equalities.

Partnership building and brokerage

Working with our public sector colleagues around the Hackney COMPACT, Third Sector Commissioning, VCS accommodation and the Equalities agenda.

Organisational development and capacity building

Helping key Third Sector organisations to develop the skills and resources to be better placed to achieve their objectives and service their stakeholders more effectively.

Communication, information, advice and assistance

To continue our comprehensive information service so that you get the most up to date information about local events, workforce development opportunities, quality standards, legislation and SPARK!

Leadership

To provide strong leadership to the Third Sector in Hackney to ensure that you are in a position to build greater social capital in the borough and take up and create opportunities to influence and deliver Sustainable Community Strategy.

Creating a fit for purpose Third Sector in Hackney

Measuring the impact of the Third Sector in Hackney (in partnership with Team Hackney) in order to address your support and development needs.

Becoming a Beacon CVS

Underpinning all this policy and development work is a strong focus on becoming a better organisation which means us achieving quality marks such as Investors in People and the NAVCA Standard.

Third Sector Commissioning

Long overdue, the Council's Partnership Directorate will be leading on pulling together a Third Sector Commissioning Strategy closely aligned to the funding principles in our local COMPACT. Myself and Mary Cannon who chairs the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) will be working closely with colleagues in the Council, PCT, and Learning Trust to ensure the strategy works for sector. It will focus on identifying all the commissioning strands across the borough, jointly assessing needs and creating some standard ways of working. This won't happen over night and a draft strategy is planned for the summer. We will keep you posted.

① Sonia Khan, Strategic Commissioning Manager Team Hackney ✉: sonia.khan@hackney.gov.uk

① An overview of our core contract will soon be on www.hcvs.org.uk/CORE



NEW HCVS SERVICE!

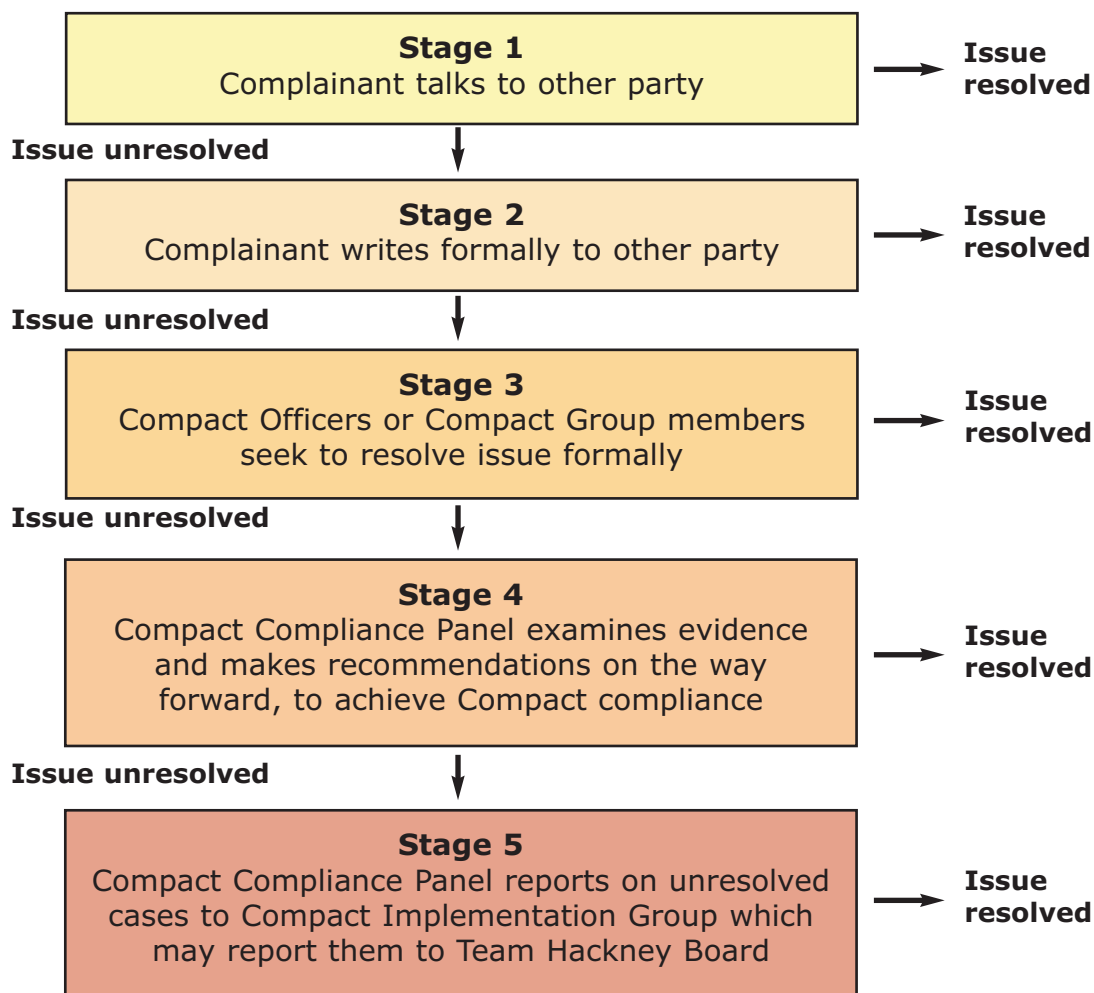
Support to improve access to healthcare for refugee, migrant and asylum seeker communities

Contact Ali Aksoy
on 020 7923
1962 or
ali@hcvs.org.uk

COMPACT: Ever had an issue with Hackney council, the PCT or The Learning Trust over funding?

The COMPACT is intended to encourage more effective partnership working between the VCS and public sectors. Organisations who have signed the Compact can challenge other signatory organisations that they feel have not adhered to the agreed COMPACT principles. A Hackney COMPACT Implementation Group will help resolve COMPACT disputes, many of which are likely to be about funding and premises. Below is an outline of the COMPACT compliance procedure.

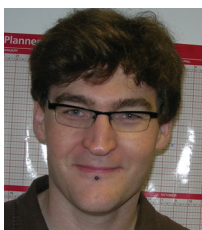
COMPACT: Resolution process



Fight for your rights!

You will need to have signed the COMPACT to get help so take the COMPACT pledge! We want every public and third sector organisation in Hackney to sign up

If you have a concern about COMPACT compliance, you should talk in the first instance to Hackney Council or Rebecca Clarkson, HCVS COMPACT lead officer who will be able to advise you whether the issue is covered by the Compact and how to process. Visit : www.hcvs.org.uk/COMPACT



HCVS says goodbye to Niall Sweby, left, our fantastic Director of Programmes, who has helped develop HCVS enormously over the last two years on the COMPACT and negotiating the core contract. Many of you will have benefited from Niall's expertise, through 121s or LinkUp. Look out for Rebecca Clarkson, right, who takes over from Niall and will continue this work. Rebecca's experience comes entirely from the VCS, most recently as Partnership Director at the Community Alliance, a national partnership to support community anchor organisations.



A Green Life



Tree Musketeers: Stoke Newington Common



STA Bikes: Cycling training



ecoACTIVE: Composting in schools

Photography: Fran Monks, fran@franmonks.com

Hackney is a hub of green activity, with many voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups pioneering an alternative way of living. SPARK hears from a handful of these champions about their passion - planet earth and its people.



In the dying embers of the last millenia when carbon emissions, the state of the ozone layer and epidemic numbers of children suffering from respiratory disease, such as asthma was headline news, a couple of parents

at Sir Thomas Abney School in Stamford Hill were racking their brains about how to combat the awful gridlock caused by parents driving their children to school.

The road in front of the school became a solid mass of cars, little children had to thread their way through to cross the road and some were injured. Then ping! They had a light bulb moment. Wean people off cars and onto bikes, teach children to cycle to school. Ping, ping - the light bulb was disco dancing – teach local parents with time on their hands to be cycle trainers. Encourage and teach green, sustainable transport and improve the local economy, provide training and job opportunities to help families work their way off benefits, increase activity levels and reduce pollution at the school gate. Wow! All schools are now encouraged to have 'School Travel Plans' by local authorities.

A decade later, those parents are directors of STA (Sir Thomas Abney) Bikes, a small not-for-profit company and lead partner in a consortium of cycling organisations in Hackney; STA Bikes, CTUK, The London School of Cycling, Pedal Power (a cycling club for young adults with special needs) and Tyssen Community School. Their work has rolled out across Hackney with schools training, community events in parks and estates, Dr Bike workshops, Saturday family cycle clubs, one-to-one training and more. Everything we deliver is free to schools or public. Funding is drawn mostly from Transport for London (TfL), Hackney council and Team Hackney.

An exciting development has been the appointment of one of our cycle trainers - Alison Butler - as Sustainable Transport Manager at Tyssen Community School. Championed by the schools' go-ahead Headteacher, Sue Windross, Tyssen has developed a whole school cycle training programme, paid for and managed by the school. They made use of the cycle pool of bikes established there, and have gone from strength to strength. Alison is the lead cycle trainer, and expanded the provision to include an after school cycle training session for mums from the local Charedi community, local families and children with special needs. **Written by Gail Bristow, above, Chair STA Bikes** 📞: www.stabikes.org.uk/index.php ☎: 0207 923 8362 - *it's best to ring school hours, term-time*



Start at home - every action does count! With the right information, you can save money on your bills on energy, water, transport...

My passion for the environment stems from when I lived in the Democratic Republic of Congo. I campaigned against the devastating impact of chemical fertilisers on agriculture. Since coming here in 2000, I trained as a Green Champion with Every Action Counts. I've worked as the Recycling Promoter in Hackney, Havering, Barking and Newham for Waste Watch, and Hackney council to educate people about recycling and the environment.

There is gap in environment education provision to refugees. Most community

groups in Hackney focus on advice, women, recreation, youth activities. These are priorities but we need to invite people be more responsible and engaged about environment issues, because the world we have tomorrow is the one we leave today.

So in 2007, myself and other Congolese residents formed Hackney Community Environmental Project, to help people from

refugee and black and ethnic minority (BME) communities find out about, and take part in environmental education as well as to feed people's views back to Hackney council. We got together a management committee of eight and two volunteers.

In many countries where Hackney's refugee communities come from, the environment policies are very weak and people don't understand how they can take actions. Our first step is with the Congolese community because you start where you feel comfortable. In 2007, we held a recycling information event with a Team Hackney Fast Track Community Grant.

I'm working with Hackney Environment Network to involve more BME and refugee led groups. Hackney council should make use of our services to reach refugee and BME communities. I'd like to see a Green Champion on every Hackney estate to provide general advice, information and practical help, on recycling and environmental issues. There is lots of environment training around, it has so many benefits. Start at home - every action does count! With the right information, you can save money on your bills on energy, water, transport... **Interview with Richard Ntaka, Coordinator of Hackney Community Environmental Project** ✉:

hackneycep@yahoo.co.uk ☎: 020 7923 8379



Essentially, we are trying to encourage people to behave differently, and now recycling in Hackney has risen to 24%, I like to think ecoACTIVE has contributed.

Once upon a time, if we walked into a school and said "We're from an environmental education group" teachers would ask us to do the garden. But over the last decade, as the National Curriculum has gradually been revised, initiatives such as the Sustainable Schools strategy (aiming for every school to be sustainable by 2020) have given education for sustainability (EfS) more status. ecoACTIVE now has 2.6 Education Officers, a part time Coordinator and up to 15 sessional workers and volunteers. Getting three year funding for one of our Education Officers from City Bridge Trust has made such a difference, particularly in planning for long term projects.

Most of ecoACTIVE's work is with

schools, but we also work at community events, with local providers for young people, faith groups, tenants associations and the public sector. I'm proud of our work. Essentially, we are trying to encourage people to behave differently, and now recycling in Hackney has risen to 24%, I like to think ecoACTIVE has contributed.

In the past, you may have seen Shirley, our electric powered milk float, out with us. Sadly, Shirley gave out last year and due to lack of funding, we won't replace her. While this was a blow, it coincided with ecoACTIVE's new strategy to work more intensively with groups / classes to enable them to be the school's Green Team or eco-warriors who take responsibility for ensuring that systems we set up with them, continue and work. Young people like our active approach although while we try and get the whole school involved in eco-action, commitment at management levels sometimes lacking. >>

ecoACTIVE initiated development of Hackney Environmental Education Network (HEEN) back in 2005 to try and link all the groups providing EfS with the Learning Trust and relevant Hackney Council Services, who fund us. HEEN is now coordinated by Rob Sambrooks at The Learning Trust, has a comprehensive database of VCS groups and individuals, lead school staff for environment and a record of what each school has done, and runs Annual Environment Training days. HEEN aims to get every Hackney school to bronze level in the international Eco-Schools programme this year. **Interview with Prue Poulton, ecoACTIVE Education** ☎ : 020 7923 7899 ✉ : admin@ecoactive.org.uk

Winning the first London Tree and Woodland Award from the Greater London Assembly and Forestry Commission last December was a wonderful recognition of the Tree Musketeers who have given a decade of time and love to improving trees in Hackney.



Starting in 1998 as Hackney Tree Wardens, changing our name in 2003, we are a network of over 500 Tree Musketeers who plant, protect and help preserve trees in Hackney. We work with local people, the Council and other organisations to promote the benefits of trees and tree care through education, publications and activities. We are all volunteers and have no core funding.

Our activities take place across Hackney, although we focus on a few sites to achieve long term impact. Our approach to planting works better than most because we put in hours of aftercare and are often on site to monitor any issues. Many people are unaware a newly planted tree needs watering until it establishes its own root system. Planting is the easy bit.

Stoke Newington Common is evidence of our commitment: we planted our first tree there in '98, and 10 years later there are 65 healthy new trees. The Common has become a focus for local people and a model for inclusive urban tree planting. We worked with Stoke Newington Common Users Group, Smalley Road tenants association, the Divine Youth Group (a local Hindu environmental youth group), Hackney council's TreeTeam, Groundwork East London, Thames Water and local businesses.

We are now working on Hackney Downs, where we have already created a wildlife area, a community orchard and planted another 30 trees. All this needs aftercare so new volunteers are always welcome. We also do free guided tree walks, cycle tours, tree maps and calendars. You can adopt or sponsor a tree and volunteers of all ages are welcome to join us. We also help run the community tree nursery on Hackney Marshes. **Interview with Russell Miller, above, Coordinator Tree Musketeers** ☎ : 07758 326530 ✉ : TM@km551818.demon.co.uk 📍 : www.hackneyenvironment.org.uk/TM



Joining an EcoTeam is an effective way to reduce your environmental impacts and save money

Based on Global Action Plan's EcoTeams programme the recently completed Ever Green Project (a partnership between Global Action Plan and Hanover in Hackney) successfully helped to create vibrant and cohesive groups of environmentally active residents on a number of Hanover's estates.

The project's aim was to assist retirement age residents living in Hanover's supported housing schemes to take environmental action. The group discussions amongst residents resulted in actions ranging from reuse and recycling to energy savings and vegetable growing to intergenerational activities.

It would be great if you and your organisation could join with others across Hackney in a new London wide EcoTeam Project funded by London Councils. Global Action Plan is training and assisting volunteer EcoTeam team leaders to recruit and run EcoTeams across London, participants get access to free resources as well as support in running their programme.

📞 Ann ☎ : 0207 841 5161 ✉ : ecoteams@globalactionplan.org.uk



KISHORE SAYS:
Meet Pauline Akoto & Sohail Anjum from Hampden Street Meals, a voluntary and community sector (VCS) group who with help from our advice sessions have made great progress.

Q. What is Hampden Street Meals?

Hampden Street Meals is an informal group established in November 2005, as a result of people from Hampden Chapel who shared a vision of helping the homeless in the surrounding area. We began by regularly visiting the homeless, developing a relationship where we listened to their stories and helped where we could - offering food, cloths, shoes and toiletries. We became well known and encouraged them to visit us on Sundays for a hot, nutritious sit-down meal.

Q. Who are the people involved in the group?

Twelve individuals from the church plus four others from the street who have been service users. Everyone volunteers with cooking and handing out meals, creating a fun environment where all are eager to get involved.

Q. How many people use your service and who are they?

Between 75 to 100 people access our service regularly, Wednesdays attract 30 to 50 people, Saturdays attract about 50 to 75 and Sunday 10 to 15 regulars. Most of our users are street people with a tragic story who need a listening ear. Their profile varies: drug users, alcoholics, victims of domestic violence or abuse. A lot are young, running away from home. It takes very little to lose one's way in life.



Feeding the homeless



Our team



Face recession head on with free consultancy from HCVS in partnership with LinkUp (ChangeUp consortium) to refugee and sports groups in Hackney.

Call Maneesha on 020 7923 1962

Q. Who funds your group?

We have been surviving on donations from the church; this is collected from the Church goers. There is no regular income from any resource. Hence accessing the help of HCVS to set up as a unincorporated organisation and attract funding, so we can continue the service and help even more people.

Q. How do you see the group developing over the next 12 months?

We would like to obtain a building to provide short-term accommodation, a drop-in centre providing clothing, toiletries, a hot meal and advice on benefits, housing and employment. Future plans also include a free phone line where a member of the street team could offer practical advice in getting support from organisations in Hackney. We are always looking out for volunteers to support our outreach work, if you are interested, please contact ☎ : 020 8986 7643.

📌 Kishore Kanani is one of our Organisation Development Advisers, you can book a free appointment with him, Maneesha Sharma or Kristine Wellington to discuss how to develop your organisation or project. ☎ : 020 7923 1962 ✉: zelina@hcv.org.uk

CEN: Building up environmental action in Hackney

A refreshed Hackney Environment Network (HEN) promises a renewed drive for green action in Hackney. Funded by a £3,000 cross cutting network grant from the Community Empowerment Network (CEN), HEN officially launched last month when Dalston's Arcola Theatre threw open its doors to over 100 people for a community environment conference.

CEN funded Hackney Environment Network brings together Hackney Environment and Hackney Parks Forums. Both have been active in the borough for over 20 years.

Both Forum chairs, Russell Miller and Amy Erickson, opened the event which attracted local people looking to get involved in local environmental initiatives as well as local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. These included Parks Groups, Growing Communities, Tree Musketeers, Hackney Community Environment Project, Hackney's Transition Town projects.

The emphasis was on enabling people to share information and ideas on how to make Hackney a more sustainable and enjoyable place to live, through five workshops (listed opposite). Councillor Sophie Linden, Dalston Ward Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Sustainability, and Chair of the CEN, Mary Cannon each spoke about what the council and the CEN are doing and answered questions. ⓘ A conference report will be available from ⓘ: www.hackneyenvironment.org.uk



A meeting of minds at Hackney Environment Network conference

Key issues from the workshops were:

Community politics and representation – getting heard and achieving change

- Look at creative ways of involving all Hackney's communities
- Importance of grassroots organising and of making links with Team Hackney, Hackney council and the CEN

Climate change and Sustainability

- Tackle fuel poverty, create local demonstration projects, improve planning policy and introduce decentralised energy systems

Transport

- How to get residents and planners working together to create transport systems that limit carbon emissions and promote safety

Tackling Planning Issues – keeping Hackney green

- Look at over-development in Hackney to protect green space and conservation areas.

Biodiversity, Food, and the Natural Environment

- Protecting parks, reservoirs and green spaces and wildlife that live there
- Looking at growing own produce, encouraging local growers and providers.

Want to get involved?

Hackney Environment Network is just getting started and wants to hear from all individuals and local organisations that want to get involved. No special expertise is needed. We want to continue linking local green initiatives, and with more volunteers we will be able to do more campaigning, local policy work, and awareness raising among VCS, statutory organisations and residents. ⓘ Liz Hughes ☎ : 020 7923 1962 ✉: liz@hcvs.org.uk

"Tackling climate change and improving the environment for all residents in Hackney is a priority for the council. We are already making progress but there is a huge challenge ahead. We all have to work together to ensure that there are positive choices for residents. Changing the way we use energy will not only help reduce carbon emissions but will also help save money. I was very pleased to be asked to speak at the Hackney Environment Network conference and was delighted to see so many residents committed to working together to make a difference." **Cllr Sophie Linden, Dalston Ward Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Sustainability**



We're very conscious that so many local people care about the environment but don't have the support they need to take action. We shouldn't all try to work in the same way or on the same projects together but it makes sense to know what each other is doing, this saves effort and avoids duplication. The Network is not looking to be a separate group with its own agenda but to be a voice for all the wide variety of groups out there. We hope to represent in as open a way as possible - taking forward people's views to the table, debating them and taking these discussions back. This has never happened well before, not in the 20 years I've been working in Hackney.' **Michael Calderbank, HEF**



I was impressed with Cllr Linden. People were interested and approached me to find out about my work with the local Congolese community. I'm looking forward to getting more involved and working with others to extend the network to other BME and refugee groups. **Richard Ntaka, Hackney Community Environment Group**



CEN: Making connections

CEN's cross cutting grants from Team Hackney were designed to develop VCS networks whose work cut across Team Hackney's five priority work areas and Boards: Children & Young People, Better Homes, Thriving Healthy, Safer, Cleaner and Economic Development. The aim was to support these networks and bring the views of their members to Team Hackney, the local strategic partnership, where decisions on services in Hackney are made. Linking up with the CEN has enabled HEN to become the key community partner on Team Hackney's Sustainable Environment Subgroup.

Local councils are increasingly required to be proactive and develop environment policies together with the community. For example, Hackney's Local Area Agreement, which sets out priorities for the borough and is how the Government measures Hackney Council, has a reduction on CO2 emissions as one of its top 35 national indicators.

James Palmer, Head of Partnerships at Team Hackney, said: 'We're looking forward to working with the CEN, who've nominated representatives from Hackney Environment Network to get involved in the work of the Partnership.' **📞 Liz Hughes 020 7923 1962 ✉: liz@hcv.org.uk**

CEN: Update on work on Fuel Poverty

In the last SPARK, we reported that CEN rep Wayne Hincks, had helped establish a Fuel Poverty Working Group within Team Hackney. Fuel Poverty is when a household spends more than 10% of its household income on energy to maintain a normal living room temperature of 21 degrees and 18 degrees in other areas. Wayne describes work so far: 'Together with support from Meg Hillier MP, academics and other experts in this area, we've spent a lot of time researching the extent of fuel poverty in Hackney, this will guide the next steps to developing a response to meet local people's needs. But we need to keep on this as a lot of time is passing since establishing the working group in November. Our work on the research and building an advice network needs to translate quickly to an action before next winter approaches, we expect this to be addressed through alignment to the Sustainable Environment agenda and Team Hackney commissioning on Energy Efficiency. At the CEN we are very conscious that with the current economic climate, more and more people are facing new hardships and need support.' If you have a view on fuel poverty in Hackney or want to get involved in this work, please contact Liz Hughes as opposite. *Wayne Hincks is a CEN representative on the Community Investment Sub-Group of Better Homes Partnership, Team Hackney*



Believe To Achieve Grants Programme

Apply before 5 May 2009 for up to £30,000 for community projects to help children move from primary to secondary school in Hackney

Want some help with your application? Book your place at our application support workshop on 20 April 2009

Want to find out more? Call Nadia at HCVS on 020 7923 1962 or apply online at www.hcvs.org.uk

the funding directory

For funding information
subscribe to:

fit4funding ☎:

www.fit4funding.org.uk

**City & Hackney Health & Social
Care Forum** ☎: www.hscf.org.uk

HCVS Email Information

Service: ✉: gillian@hcv.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 FINDER FINDER a computer programme that searches over 4,500 funders which make grants to VCS groups.
- You can sign up for our free email or paper newsletter and get funding news as it happens.
- **Not on email?** Call Gillian below and get our free weekly funding newsletter with a round up of all funding sent out by email. ⓘ **Gillian Trevethan**
☎: 020 7923 1962
✉: gillian@hcv.org.uk

Environmental Funding

**British Ecological Society
Public Engagement Grant**

Up to £2,000 to promote ecology awareness

Closing date: 23 April 2009

ⓘ ☎: 020 8871 9797

☎:

www.britishecologicalsociety.org

SITA GreenPrints

Up to £10,000 For environment projects created and led by volunteers aged 16 - 25

Closing date: Rolling - 15 June, 12 August, 14 October 2009

ⓘ ☎: 01454 262910 ☎:

www.sitatrust.org.uk ■



**Believe to
Achieve grants
programme**



Nadia
Capogrosso,
left, talks to
SPARK about our
new grants from
The Learning Trust.

The move from primary school to secondary school is both an exciting and daunting time for both children and their families. Many children find it hard to cope and this can lead to absenteeism or underachievement.

At HCVS we believe that the best solutions to this are often found at the heart of the community, The Learning Trust commissioned us to run the Believe to Achieve grants programme for voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups. This funding aims to ensure that children and their parents or carers, who are about to take this exciting journey are properly supported, particularly those who are vulnerable.

VCS groups working with children or with parents or carers of children who are currently in this transition process can apply for a grant of between £15,000 and £30,000 before Tuesday, 5 May. This funding is open to non-for-profit VCS groups with a governing document, a bank account in their own name, an annual turnover of less than £1million and a management committee made up of volunteers. If you want help with your application, there are two support workshops on 7 and 20 April. ■ ⓘ Nadia Capogrosso, Grants Officer at HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ☎: www.hcv.org.uk

ⓘ Grants programmes at HCVS

Believe to Achieve Grants Programme

Grant size: £15,000 - £30,000

Closing date: 5 May 2009

How to apply workshops: 20

April 2009 - see page 20.

Team Hackney Community Large Grants

Grant size: £5,000 - £50,000

Total available: £500,000

Closing date: 1 May 2009

Please note small grants £1,000 - £5,000 has closed.

Grassroots Grants

Grant size: Up to £5,000

Who can apply: Small VCS groups including Tenants & Residents Associations, with an average income of £30,000 or less over the last three years.

What projects will be funded: A range of projects, including capital and equipment costs.

Closing date: Open until 2011, the next deadlines are 3 July 2009.

ⓘ Download application packs for all this funding from our www.hcv.org.uk under Funding and Commissioning on the left

Words Unite grants

Grant size: £5,000

Date closed: 5 June 2009

How to apply workshop: 20 May 2009 - see page 20.

Application pack: Download a pack from ☎:

www.gethackneyreading.com

Putting the environment at the top of the agenda



**Green champion:
Michael Calderbank**

SPARK spoke to Michael Calderbank, secretary of Hackney Environment Forum, part of the team spearheading the refreshed Hackney Environment Network funded by Community Empowerment Network (CEN).

I've involved myself in local environmental activities since I came to Hackney 20 years ago. I joined Hackney Environment Forum (HEF), Hackney's umbrella environmental group, and I've been secretary since 1993. HEF supports local groups and networking through the website, the production of Hackney's Big Green Map and events such as Hackney Green Drinks.

HEF jumped at the chance of a CEN grant to work with Hackney Parks Forum, to build on the work we've done to build a larger inclusive network. Five of us from the two fora got together as a steering group. We hired a project worker to help with outreach work and making new links with, for example, BAMER organisations and tenants and faith groups who are not always linked in with environmental groups. We also organised a conference to bring people together, discuss key issues and to shape the future of Hackney Environment Network.

At the conference, at least twenty people put their names down to take the process forward and together we will develop the network. Other

volunteers are welcome. We need to work out the best ways to pull together common themes, move forward with agreed goals and achieve change.

Like the conference, I hope the network continues to address a wide range of issues that reflect local concerns and opportunities as well as the major issues of today such as climate change.

But it depends on who gets involved and what they want to do. The whole point of the network is to be inclusive and collaborative and not serve the people who shout loudest or groups that are best resourced. A key issue will inevitably be how the VCS can get its voice heard.

The network's only in its very first stage but it's off to a good start.

At the conference, we had promises from Cllr Sophie Linden, Cabinet Member for Customer Services & Sustainability, to work more with us on environmental issues, to ensure better representation on the new Sustainable Environment sub-group of Team Hackney and to clarify who's who in Hackney Council.

Over the years, it's been difficult to get the council and others to improve their environmental policies and performance.

Successive council regimes have failed to work well with the voluntary and community sector (VCS), to open up the decision-making process or to take environmental issues seriously. The council seems to have viewed the environment and sustainability issues as an

unnecessary and unaffordable luxury, secondary to other issues. Instead, we all need to understand that a good healthy environment underpins overall well-being. Sustainable development should be the overarching principle guiding all other work. Hopefully the situation is changing.

CEN has helped with funding our outreach and research work and with putting us in touch with several other Hackney networks that focus on other issues but clearly want to have their voices heard on environmental issues.

In the future, we will be helping us to try and secure funding for the network. There's only so much volunteers can do in their spare time, paid workers would give us the capacity to make even more links with people who are still under-represented in the network and to keep everyone informed of progress.

I hope the network can take us to places we've never been before in Hackney, where there's a cultural change that puts the environment high up the agenda and where the council and other statutory bodies willingly maintain an open dialogue with grassroots activists and operate in a more transparent way. It's the only way we're going to tackle things like climate change and the loss of biodiversity and build a better future where people feel included and can reach their potential.

① **Hackney Environment Network**
🌐: www.hackneyenvironment.org.uk

Spring forward

Snow didn't stop Hackney's voluntary and community sector (VCS), here's a round up of winter activities. Please send in your photo and 50 words for the next SPARK ✉: gillian@hcv.org.uk

① School volunteering programme **RSVP**, the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme** celebrated 20 years last year. RSVP has 28 local people, most aged over 50, helping with children in 19 primary schools and one secondary school. Volunteers help pupils with reading and numeracy, also bringing their skills in craft, music and cookery. ① **Become a volunteer!** Fran Rogers ☎: 0208 692 2472



② Carol Jokhoo, Chair of **Millfields Tenants Association**, organised and completed a Mentoring programme thanks to a Team Hackney Fast Track Community Grant, along with four residents - Valerie Allen, Adekunle Oluwanle, Emmanuel Malm and Chereen Allen from Millfields estate. Pictured is Moreen Jahoor - Treasurer Millfields TRA tutor, Dave Brown, Valerie, Speaker of Hackney, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Adekunle, Carol and son Joel, Emmanuel at their award presentation. ① **Carol Jokhoo** ✉: carol.jokhoo@blueyonder.co.uk



③ City and Hackney Mind's activities and therapies drop-in centre - I.R.I.E. Mind - had a fantastic art exhibition at Dreamspace Gallery. ① **Juana Silva** ☎: 020 8985 0221



Hackney Music Development Trust (HMDT) runs Hoxton Singers. They are rehearsing in April to prepare for a new season with new Music Director Roshie Nasehi. They meet on Fridays 3 - 5pm at Hoxton Hall, and it's open to anyone over 60 who enjoys singing and performing. ① HMDT ☎: 020 8820 7410 ■

SPRING 09

Words UNITE

www.gethackneyreading.com

£5000 for Reading activities in Hackney
Funding available up to £5000
for voluntary and community sector
(VCS) projects

For an application form
visit: www.gethackneyreading.com

Deadline Friday, 5 June 2009

More information from:
Linda Lakey at The Learning Trust
email: linda.lakey@learningtrust.co.uk or 020 8820 7268

Need help with your application?
Come along to the 'Application support workshop'
on Wednesday, 20 May 2009
at HCVS. To book a place call 020 7923 1962
or email zelina@hcv.org.uk

Spring Diary

Here's a list of upcoming events, meetings and workshops at HCVS and the Community Empowerment Network (CEN). For weekly updates subscribe to HCVS email service, contact Gillian Trevethan ✉: gillian@hcv.org.uk

April 2009

14 Apr, 3pm: CEN: Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF) meeting to tackle economic crises @ HCVS, 84 Springfield House E8 2LY ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: ali@hcv.org.uk

18 Apr, 12 - 4pm: The Bathhouse Children's Community Centre exhibition Exploring Our Food Through Art @ Gillett Square, N16 FREE

15 & 16 Apr, 2 - 4pm: Signs, Symbols and Spaces A creative exploration of signs and ways of finding places and spaces in Hackney for families @ Hackney Museum, E8 1GQ ☎: 020 7729 2011

20 Apr, 10am - 3pm: HCVS: Believe to Achieve grants programme: Application support workshop @ HCVS, as above ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: zelina@hcv.org.uk

23 Apr, 1 - 3pm: CEN: Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF) - immigration law update @ HCVS ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: ali@hcv.org.uk

24 Apr, 5.30pm: CEN: Hackney Turkish Kurdish Network with Hackney Youth Service to build a Youth Forum @ RWCA, 3-19 Victorian Grove ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: ibrahim@rwca.org.uk

24 Apr, 2009, 4 - 6pm: Anika Patrice AGM @ Old Fire Station, 61 Leswin Road N16 7NX ☎: 020 7923 9033 ✉: anikapatrice@aporg.co.uk

25 Apr, 4 - 7pm: Hackney Educators Forum AGM ☎: 0203 302 8386 ✉: info@edforum.org.uk

28 Apr, :CEN: Drug and Alcohol Services Network @ 19 Tudor Road, E9 7SN ✉: Patricia.Salt@chalcoldservice.org.uk

30 Apr, 8pm: Hackney Migrant Centre AGM @ St Mary's New Church Rooms, Spensley Walk, off Stoke Newington Church Street, N16 9ES ☎: 07504 332 706

May 2009

12 May, 10am - 5pm: HCVS: Introduction to Sustainable Funding workshop @ HCVS, as above

20 May, 1 - 4pm: HCVS: Words Unite grants programme: Application support workshop @ HCVS, as before ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: zelina@hcv.org.uk

June 2009

4 Jun, 1 - 3pm: CEN: Children & Young People's Forum (CYPF) @ HCVS, as before ☎: 020 7923 1962 ✉: zelina@hcv.org.uk

11 Jun, 10 - 4pm: HCVS Funders Fair, AGM and Adiaha Antigha Community Achievements Awards @ Fellows Court Community Hall, E2 8LR

Green Sundays @ Arcola Theatre E8 2DJ on first Sunday of every month

An opportunity for the ecologically curious to explore environmental issues through music, film, spoken word, games and discussions – a chance to celebrate, question and challenge different ways of occupying our shared world. ☎: 0207 503 1386 ✉: anna@arcolatheatre.com

Transforming adult social care: The role of voluntary and community sector organisations in Hackney

Conference 6 May 2009

The day will include national speakers from in Control who designed individualized budgets & Keyring a national provider – who worked in Oldham to provide services paid for via individualized budgets.

The workshops will be a chance to be involved both in the design of new routes service users will take - from self assessment to choosing how to spend their budget, and to look at the implications for our groups.

This event is open to all not for profit groups working in Hackney including: health/ social care groups; faith groups; arts groups; leisure groups; Housing Associations.

For more information and to book please contact Jackie on 0207 923 8361 or info@hscf.org.uk – or look at the transformation page of the hscf website – www.hscf.org.uk

Organised by BEMWG & HSCF in partnership with London Borough of Hackney