

CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

Newsletter: Issue Six – February 2009



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CECF Introduction

I have been settling into the role of Community Development Officer over the past few months and whilst demanding, it has been a positive challenge. Cambridge has a mosaic of diverse communities and it has been a pleasure working with them. However in difficult economic times as we have now, societies can become intolerant as 'outsiders' are either blamed for those woes, or seen as a threat in competition for jobs or resources. The Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) must challenge racism and media or other stereotypes and ensure that the positive contribution that all have made, and continue to make to UK Society, is known and recognised.

Reported by Eddie Stadnik
Development Officer

CECF would like to extend their warmest wishes and gratitude to George Jones who has recently announced he is retiring from his post as Cambridge Racial Incident Support Project (CRISP) Officer, his successor will be Toni Lindsay. George has been a great pillar of support to CECF with his hard working ethics and project work support. Our sincerest gratitude to George and though we will miss him very much we wish him a well deserved relaxing retirement

Development

CECF has continued to grow and develop during the last few months with a new emphasis on topics such as disability and health. To this end there has been substantial work done around developing agency and organisation links to enable us to be better informed and contribute more effectively on behalf of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, as well as to facilitate access to them. We have also been exploring ways in which the BME communities can shape more effectively decisions and policy in those areas.

I have been continuing the good work that Tina Shah, the previous Development Officer started in visiting BME community groups, including dropping by the Cambridge African Network and the East of England Polish Community Organisation. Subsequently they have both become CECF members. In our role to empower and support BME communities, I have also provided advice and support to the Cambridge Refugee Support Group when it encountered funding difficulties.

Our 'Forum Field' project successfully obtained funding and will now be developed over the coming year as an initiative in partnership with the Akashi Project. We also had another successful 'Coffee Morning' with more opportunity for BME communities to network.

Reported by Eddie Stadnik
Development Officer

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New Projects

As a consequence of the Cambridge Refugee Support Group (CRSG) closing its doors at the end of 2008 and to assist the local authorities in a needs assessment. The CECF has been commissioned by Cambridge City Council Community Development to run an exciting project over the coming year, which will provide a service to asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers. We will be working in partnership to deliver this service with the British Red Cross Refugee Service, MENTER, Refugee Council and the Cambridge University Student Action for Refugees (STAR). This will fill the gap left by the unfortunate demise of the CRSG and broaden the client base of the forum. CRISP has been funded by the National Lottery 'Awards for All' to do a project which will explore issues of racial harassment and discrimination in the BME communities. It is hoped that this will enable us to develop further CRISP's work in this area.

Reported by Eddie Stadnik
Development Officer

Community and Cohesion News

Chinese New Year – “Year of the Ox”

Sunday 01/02/09, 1:30pm – 4:30pm, Churchill College, Cambridge

The Chinese Community Centre, hosted this year's Chinese New Year, where CECF facilitated in publicising the event through membership groups. The day itself was filled with a variety of acts, ranging from a very colourful Lion dance, traditional singing, Martial arts and acts from other local BME communities. There was a traditional dance from the Indian Cultural and Community Association and some upbeat Hip-Hop dancing from the Street Style Dance. The event was very well attended including a very well supported raffle, it was a pleasure to attend this event and gain a valuable insight into Chinese New Year celebrations.

Reported by Mitesh Patel
Project Support Officer

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Community and Cohesion News (continued)

Young People's Multicultural Party – "Celebrating Diversity"

Sunday 23/11/08, 2:30pm – 6pm, Arbury Community Centre

The day was set, the food was arranged, the activity corners were ready and the music was awaiting its cue for the anticipation for the guests to arrive. As this was the first big event organised by Eddie and I, there was a little bit of pressure trying to make sure everything went off without a hitch.

The clock struck 2:30pm and the hall started to flood in with people across diverse communities, enjoying the international food (provided by the Chinese Community Centre, Luthfa Khatun and Menelik Education Ltd), looking at the stall set up by the Pakistan Cultural Association and of course looking forward to the day's programme.

Following the speeches by the Mayor of Cambridge and the Chair of CECF, I played host for the rest of the event, introducing and generally making sure the performers were prepared and came in on time. In total there were 9 performances taking place, ranging from storytelling by Kati Preston and performances from the Chinese Community Centre, Cambridge Oriental Centre of Arts, Polish Saturday School, Indian Community and Cultural Association (ICCA), ICCA's 50's Club, Menelik Education Ltd, Cambridge Pakistan Cultural Association and the Street Style Dance.

Whilst all that excitement was taking place on stage, in parallel there were also children's activities going on the ground, such as the "Energy Wizard" Competition (organised by Akashi Project), Face painting (by Kaleidoscope), Henna Tattoo (by Trishna Shah) and a Nature Corner (by Cambridge and Peterborough Biological Records Centre).

With so much happening, most participants did not want the day to end, but alas, 6pm came by too quickly. Overall it was a feeling of relief and sadness that the day had to end. But the overall credit for the success has to go to all the performers and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this a special day. The event was very well attended, with over 40 children and young people and all who attended gave a lot of positive feedback and look forward to further events organised by the CECF. Finally a big thank you to the food organisers and CECF trustees for their support.

Reported by Mitesh Patel
Project Support Officer



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Training and Volunteer News



Older Couples Project

Dr Yan-Shing Chang is a Research Fellow from the Family and Parenting Institute who attended our last Coffee Morning, is looking for volunteers to help with a new research study exploring the challenges faced by older couples. If possible, she would like to interview family members (adult children and their parents) in families where one or both of the older couple (aged 60+) have extra health care needs. Interviews can be over the phone or face to face, whichever is most convenient for interviewees (expenses will be reimbursed)

To participate, please contact Helen Barrett or Yan-Shing Chang (Research Fellows) on 0207 485 9227.

Alternatively, please email: barrett@familyandparenting.org



Anglia Ruskin
University

Learning about the Recovery approach

Joanna Fox from the Anglia Ruskin University is holding a training programme and research project for unpaid carers of people with schizophrenia.

Who for? For unpaid carers aged over 18 years caring for a family member, neighbour or friend with schizophrenia

What is the training about? To inform carers about the recovery approach. The training will be evaluated.

What is recovery? Recovery is about living well with/without symptoms of schizophrenia. It acknowledges progress but also of set backs. At its core is hope and optimism.

How long does it last? Beginning in April 2009; 5 sessions of 2½ hours delivered over 10 weeks. There will be a group discussion at the start and end to evaluate the training programme

For further information please contact: Joanna Fox

E-mail: Joanna.Fox@anglia.ac.uk Mobile: 07881 731962

Address: Room 044, Anglia Ruskin University, East Road, Cambridge, CB1 1PT

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Training and Volunteer News (continued)



EssayAssay can provide you or your organisation low cost, high quality copyediting, correspondence and academic writing assistance

Graham Roberts is the CEO for EssayAssay, which is specifically established to help those from a BME background, to become more effective communicators in the professional world.

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- CV, Cover Letter or Job Application Writing
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- General letter writing
- Essay or academic writing
- Proofreading

Please feel free to browse the EssayAssay website (www.essayassay.com) or contact Graham Roberts direct on graham.roberts@essayassay.com for a no obligation enquiry/quotation.

Events

CECF Annual General Meeting

Monday 16/02/09, 6pm – 8pm, St. Paul’s Centre, Cambridge

CECF is holding their AGM with presence from the Mayor of Cambridge, key speaker Kevin Coutinho, Funders, Local Agencies, Communities and Member groups. All are welcome to come along and attend. We look forward to meeting you.

For more information about becoming a member of CECF or becoming a new trustee, please send an email to Eddie (eddie@cecf.co.uk)

Cambridge Day Limmund 2009 – “A river of knowledge”

Sunday 15/03/09, 09:30am – 7:30pm, Impington Village College, Cambridge

This year's theme is “The Place of Jews” where there will be a number of presenters including Reva Mann (Columnist and author of “The Rabbi’s Daughter: Sex, Drugs and Orthodoxy”), Geoffrey and Naomi Aldermann (Professor of Anglo-Jewish history and author, respectively) and Ada Rapoport-Albert (Head of Hebrew and Jewish studies at UCL and a world expert on history of Hasidism). For more information and to reserve, please visit:

www.limmund.org/day/cambridge

Events (continued)

Equality Vs. Academic Freedom

23/02/09, 5pm, University of Cambridge

Diane Abbott MP will deliver the University of Cambridge's inaugural Race Equality Lecture.

If you or others wish to attend any Equality & Diversity (E&D) event, please register at www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/

Women's Forum Conference – “Realising Your Potential”

25/02/09, 5pm, University of Cambridge

If you or others wish to attend any E&D event, please register at www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/

WiSETI Annual Lecture

09/03/09, University of Cambridge

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell will deliver the lecture. This event is targeted at women working in science, engineering or technology but is open to all.

If you or others wish to attend any E&D event, please register at www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/

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Events (continued)

THE CAMBRIDGE GRAND TALENT SHOW 2009 - 'Bling ya Ting'

FRIDAY 27/03/09, 7pm – 10 pm, Guildhall, Cambridge

Cambridge City Council Community Development and Little D Promotions are inviting everybody to participate or just to come and watch the biggest Talent Show Cambridgeshire has ever seen! Whether you are a solo or group act, Bhangra performer, rapper/MC, singer, poet, comedian, dancer, band, etc

- The talent show aims is to bring together different ethnicities, ages, faiths, and performers from all rural and urban areas. The event will unite, discover, develop and showcase the city's talent with a focus of an urban theme and world music.
- This is a fantastic opportunity to further your undiscovered talent. In previous Cambridge talent shows, there have been national winners raising their profile, confidence and inspiration.
- Plus there will be Prizes, Trophies, as well as surprises!

The deadline for entry is: Friday 06/03/09

Auditions will be on: Saturday 14/03/09, 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Brownsfield Community Centre, Cambridge

Please contact Della Spencer for more information and an application on

Email: Littledpromotions2005@hotmail.co.uk or

Mobile: 07840 152520 (Della Spencer) or Tel: (01223) 457876 (Ariadne Henry)

CECF Staff

Development Officer: Eddie Stadnik
Project Support Officer: Mitesh Patel
CRISP Officer: George Jones

CECF Management Committee

Chair: Hazra Awal
Vice Chair: Redge Carpen
Secretary: Valerie Berkson
Treasurer: Joyce Andrade
Members: Anil Soni
Jason Yow
Joseph Jabbie
Lileth Warford
Mirza Baig
Odhavji Bharadwa
Patricia Crampton
Rajni Shah
Vincenzo Marino

Developing Partnerships with

ABMEC C.I.C.
The Akashi Project
British Red Cross
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Cambridgeshire County Council
Equality and Human Rights Commission
Huntingdonshire Community Association
MENTER