

# CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

## Newsletter: Issue One — January 2008



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CEFC News:

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Welcome to the first issue of our Newsletter. Following a period of relative inactivity in the recent past, changes were in order. So at the AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007, a new but experienced, enthusiastic, talented and highly motivated team took office.

We are considering it as more of a re-launch and despite the tireless efforts of the previous management team, no one in our team has any illusions about the difficult task ahead. Everyone is committed to supporting a new programme of activities that will serve some of the unique needs of the ethnic and minority communities in Cambridge and the surrounding areas. We are approaching these tasks with certain basic principles in place such as 'Inclusivity', 'Transparency', 'Sensitivity' and 'Honesty' to mention but a few.

We have already lined up either jointly with other voluntary organisations in Cambridge or exclusively, a series of exciting, enjoyable and participatory activities for the year involving the ethnic minorities and the general public in Cambridge. More specific information about these be available on our website.

Our main objectives in our constitution says and I quote that CECF is "To work towards the elimination of racial discrimination", "To promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups in the city of Cambridge and surrounding area", "To relieve poverty and distress", "To advance education" - all of which are very noble objectives you would agree. We wish to pursue these goals with zest and where necessary as facilitators.

Of course we can not do this work without the co-operation of the communities, the general public and most importantly the funding authorities, and hence we welcome any constructive offer of help or suggestions with open arms at any time. I sincerely hope and wish that you will support us in our endeavours. **If you would like to have a mention in our Newsletter for your community project or event please contact us on 01223 315877.**

Hazra Awal



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### Community News:

### Development and Cohesion

Driving forward our goals of **inclusivity, transparency, sensitivity and honesty**.....

**Jason Yow** will be leading the efforts to ensure that the forum has strong links with the widest possible range of minority community groups, both locally and beyond. Recently, Jason facilitated a visit by a multi-agency group to China. Representatives from the Police, City Council and County Council were taken around Central China.

**Valerie Berkson** will be leading the efforts to produce regular Newsletters to keep members properly informed. We hope that you will find the news and activities will not only enthuse you but also motivate and inspire you to provide support to the Forum's activities.

**Anil Soni** will be leading the efforts to update and develop our Website. Our aim is to develop this facility into an interactive area enabling members to develop closer ties and enhance their understanding of relevant and important matters. We will be hoping to inject humour and fun as essential features of this development.

**Patricia Crampton** will be leading the efforts to maintain and strengthen the Forum's links with partnership agencies within the voluntary and public sectors. Links are being developed with similar organisations in Huntingdon and Peterborough with the assistance of MENTER.

### Employment and Training

ABMEC (Action for BME Communities Cambridgeshire) C.I.C. is a newly formed independent organisation, recently awarded 5 years' funding from the Big Lottery. They will provide support and advice to disadvantaged BME people in Cambridgeshire and existing ethnic community groups, offering a broad range of capacity building activities: - support workshops, basic skills, and management skills training. ABMEC aims to improve the inclusion of BME communities in mainstream community life by identifying BME people who are in need, or not currently involved or supported by community organisations. It will undertake outreach work to target people who are not participating in, or aware of community services - the disadvantaged, asylum seekers and migrants.

### Help for Women with English as a second language, who want to find work

Cambridge Women's Resources Centre is offering:

- Help finding the right English course for you.
- Jobsearch and CV writing workshops- learn how to look for work and prepare for a job interview.
- One to one guidance interviews for information on courses and employment.
- An advisor who can visit groups or individuals or you can drop in and talk to Lindsay on Thursdays from 10-12 noon, at Cambridge Women's Resources Centre on Hooper Street.

Email: [lindsay@cwrc.org.uk](mailto:lindsay@cwrc.org.uk)

Telephone: 01223 321148 and leave your name and number for Lindsay to call you back.



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Volunteer Activity:

Forthcoming Events, Members List, Useful contacts

### Valentine's Dinner and Dance

Cambridge Caribbean Association are holding 'A Valentine's Dance' on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at The Cherry Hinton Village Centre, Colville Road from 7:00 p.m. to Midnight. Tickets are £8:00 advance and £10:00 at the door. Attractions include Ebony Steel Band and Disco.

Camcarib contacts: Cliff - 01954 782873, Hilda - 01223 512002, David - 01954250523

e-mail: [info.camcarib@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:info.camcarib@yahoo.co.uk), [www.camcarib.co.nr](http://www.camcarib.co.nr)

Camcarib meetings take place every second Saturday monthly @ Cherry Trees, St Matthews Street.

### Chinese New Year

February 7, 2008 is the start of the Chinese New Year of the Rat. The Cambridge Chinese Community Centre is holding its New Year Celebration on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February from 6pm at Netherhall Upper School, Queen Ediths Way. Phone 01223 365228 or see further details on their website at

[www.cambridgechinese.co.uk](http://www.cambridgechinese.co.uk)

### Holocaust Memorial

Holocaust Memorial is a remembrance event for all the victims of genocide around the world. In Cambridge, it was launched on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Redge Carpen and Valerie Berkson attended the launch and were emotionally moved by the event.

An exhibition marking the Holocaust Memorial will be open to the public until 09/02/08. This exhibition titled - 'Faces in the Void' is open from Monday to Saturday 9.30 am to 5 pm at Michaelhouse, Trinity Street, Cambridge. It is inspired by the presence of Czech Torah scrolls in the synagogues to which Jane and Marion belong. These scrolls were among 1564 seized by the Nazis during the Second World War as part of their destruction of European Jewish communities, lying forgotten by everyone until they were bought in 1965 by three British Jews from the Soviet Government of (then) Czechoslovakia. They were brought to London and restored at the Westminster Synagogue before being loaned to modern Jewish communities to be used today in religious services worldwide. Jane and Marion visited the Czech communities from which their scrolls come during two successive summers and fostered relationships in each besides carrying out extensive research.

The Michaelhouse Centre is a community centre in the middle of Cambridge. Part cafe and exhibition space, it also houses an ancient church. Amazingly, using Marion's photographs, the Chaplain of Michaelhouse, Rev Dr Andreas Loewe is transforming the church to resemble the AltNeu Synagogue in Prague. This is the oldest synagogue in the world still used regularly for services. The Archbishop of Canterbury is visiting the exhibition on 5th February.

### **Multi Cultural Event Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

The Forum is planning to host a Cultural event showcasing the Diverse Communities of Cambridge. Look out for further information in the next issue. If you are interested in getting involved and have any questions about the event please contact Patricia Crampton via e-mail at

[patricia.crampton@googlemail.com](mailto:patricia.crampton@googlemail.com)



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### Office Space and Meeting Room Available

Cambridge Community Trust has space available for Community Groups to rent in its Voluntary Resource Centre at 91 Cherry Hinton Road. Options include hot desks shared office, your own office or use of low cost meeting room. If you are looking for space then contact them at [camcomtrust@aol.com](mailto:camcomtrust@aol.com) or phone 07988 124619.



### UnLtd Sport Relief Awards

UnLtd Sport Relief Awards provide opportunities for young people to bring communities together, to help them promote understanding and solve conflict through sport and being active. This funding is for 11-21 year olds, who are prepared to go the extra mile and use their passion for sport to bring respect and understanding to their communities by setting up their own projects.

Funding of £250-£5,000 is available for entrepreneurial young people who have great ideas and who want to make a difference. For example, with this money you could engage young people from different backgrounds by organising an indoor cricket mini-world cup. Or perhaps you could help reduce violence in your area by getting young people to channel their energies into football rather than fighting. Or how about organising a skateboarding competition for kids that will reduce tensions in the local area. ...all it takes is one great idea. This could be your chance to get your community moving and score some skills on the way!

Application forms and details available from [www.unltd.org.uk](http://www.unltd.org.uk) - or call 0845 3670 770.

### Cambridge Ethnic Forum Management Committee

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

Developing Partnerships with  
**MENTER**  
**ABMEC**

Huntingdonshire Community Association  
Peterborough Council for Race Equality  
Equality and Human Rights Commission  
Cambridgeshire Constabulary  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
Cambridge City Council

