

CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM



62-64 Victoria Road
Cambridge
CB4 3DU

Tel: (01223) 315877
Fax: (01223) 504303
E-mail:
cecfenquiries@cecf.co.uk

Website: www.cecf.co.uk

Company No. 4175678
Charity No. 1086241

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Newsletter: Issue Twelve – September 2010

CECF Introduction

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) organised activities for both the 2010 Cambridge Environment Festival, which ran from the 12th-26th June 2010 and Refugee Week which ran from the 14th-20th June 2010. Cambridge is a city whose residents, including the BME communities take a keen interest in those issues. CECF organised an open day at its premises as its contribution to the Environment Festival, which was attended by the Mayor of Cambridge; Councillor Sheila Stuart. Refugee Week is an annual national event, which seeks to highlight not only the issues, but the positive contributions refugees have brought to the UK. The British Red Cross Refugee Service, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge City Council and the CECF worked in partnership to organise a series of events across the City. Our City MP, Dr. Julian Huppert, was in attendance at one of those.

Development

Cambridge City Council recently agreed to a grant so that the Cambridge Refugee and Migrant Support (CRMS) Project could be continued. This recognised the need that this unique project of CECF has been meeting. Since April of last year this project has assisted at least 600 asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. Another project of CECF that has been going from strength to strength has been the Cambridge Racial Incident Support Project (CRISP). There will be an official launch event on Saturday, 2nd October 2010, which is taking place during Black History Month. Other news and developments for this project are also included in a separate report.

CECF has been giving more direct Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community assistance. We have a team of up to 10 volunteers and these have been accompanying staff in helping to facilitate, organise, publicise and support community events. We worked closely with the Indian Community and Culture Association in helping to organise and publicise the Jaipur Kawa Brass Band Concert, which included sending along a team of volunteers to help on the day of the concert. There was a team of volunteers in attendance to help facilitate the Cambridge African Networks, Annual General Meeting, as well as a team of volunteers recently supporting the Cambridge Pakistan Cultural Association in a street collection for the Flood Appeal.

Finally in recent weeks we have been giving our website a bit more attention. We will continue to develop this as both a source of information and community focus. Please note that in the interests of environment and economy our newsletter will no longer be automatically posted out. It will be available electronically, on our website and from CECF reception. If however you still require one posted to you, please contact us via Email: cecfenquiries@cecf.co.uk or write to us at 62-64 Victoria Road, Cambridge, CB4 3DU, so we can consider this request.

Reported by Eddie Stadnik
Chief Officer

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Equality and
Human Rights
Commission

equalityhumanrights.com



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CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

Cambridge Racial Incident Support Project (CRISP)

Hello again, we have been working really hard during the last few months talking to a number of different organisations to arrange the new CRISP Outreach Surgeries and attended training to increase the knowledge of our team. Below is just a small example of the work that we have undertaken:

1. CRISP staff attended training on "*Human Rights in the Community*" run by the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR). Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) in London too has provided training on how to handle employment law cases and how to deal with all forms of discrimination.
2. CRISP applied to be a pilot project for one of the community projects being funded by the BIHR.
3. CAB, Bar Pro Bono unit, Free Representation unit and Employment Lawyers Association have each accepted CRISP to be one of their referral agencies. These organisations will use their expertise to offer advice and if appropriate present cases before employment tribunals, social security tribunals and the regular courts on behalf of CRISP clients.

Outreach Surgeries across Cambridgeshire

From Tuesday 5th October 2010, CRISP will commence outreach surgeries at the following centres: Indian Community and Culture Association centre on Mill Road, Arbury Community Centre off Campkin Way, Cambridge, Medway Centre in Huntingdon, Rosmini Centre in Wisbech, The Priory Centre in St. Neots and a venue in Ely that is yet to be arranged. South Cambridgeshire District Council has agreed for CRISP to use an office at its headquarters in Cambourne. A calendar of times and venues will be available on the CECF website in due course, once finalisations of venues are provided. Contact is being made with a number of Diversity Forum's, Equality and Diversity Officers and other representatives of a number of other relevant organisations within Cambridgeshire to which CRISP will eventually be introduced to.

Official launch of CRISP

CRISP is being officially launched on the **Saturday 2nd October 2010, 2pm - 4pm, Arbury Community Centre, 263 Arbury Road, Cambridge, CB4 2JL**, where the Mayor of Cambridge will formally announce "CRISP is open for business". CRISP/CECF staff are working hard to ensure the success of the event

Reported by Tony Lindsay
CRISP Project Manager

Forum Field Project (FFP)

Since the last Newsletter, the FFP has had a full capacity of members working the lands and coming to harvest a lot of the fruits of their labour, see the picture below. I had the fortune of attending the Nuffield Road annual BBQ event, which took place on a warm end of summer time weekend, where I met some of the neighbours.



Vegetation (left to right) Aubergines, Radish, Cucumber, Coriander, Onion, Lola Rosa Lettuce, Indian Mint

CECF took part in this year's Environmental Week, holding an all day open day on 19th June 2010 at the CECF building. The "*Think Green and How to go about it*" event was very good, networking with known and new faces as well having the privilege of the Mayor attending too. I would like to thank all those who attended as well the hard work that volunteers had put into making the day as great as it was.

Reported by Mitesh Patel
Project Support Officer



Seated (left to right):
Mayor of Cambridge Councillor
Sheila Stuart, Mayors Consort

Standing (left to right):
Hazra Awal (Board of CECF), Emmanuel Obikwu (CRISP Caseworker), Tony Lindsay (CRISP Project Manager), Mitesh Patel (Project Support Officer/FFP Lead), Eddie Stadnik (Chief Officer), Thakorbhai Patel (Chair of ICCA/Board of CECF)

CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

Community Focus

We would like to encourage BME member groups and individuals to contribute to this section of the Newsletter, if you have such items of interests to share, then please contact Eddie Stadnik via Email: cecfenquiries@cecf.co.uk or Mitesh Patel via Email: mitesh@cecf.co.uk. This edition we are featuring Indian Community and Culture Association, the Mini World Cup and the Punjabi Cultural Association, Cambridge.

How collaboration can help an organisation

As a fund raising exercise I had considered organising a performance of Jaipur Kawa Brass Band from Rajasthan India. The band was touring Europe and they were keen to come to Cambridge for a performance. As this was a charity event they agreed to perform at cost.

To recover costs and raise funds for ICCA this would to be a ticketed event, which added extra complexity in organising the event, such as marketing, ticket sales, media etc., meaning that we needed additional help with the event. Thus with the CECF board approval Eddie Stadnik (Chief Officer) and Mitesh Patel (Project Support Officer) stepped in to help.



Brass band and traditional Gypsy dancer

This was to be a very successful collaboration. Posters and tickets were designed with help of Mitesh and we had also agreed that CECF would be the main point of ticket sales. The help and assistance received were exemplary. The event was planned out with meticulous detail, even to the point of ensuring that when the audience arrived they would be met by a volunteer, greeted and shown to their seats. Nothing was left to chance as the team of volunteers ensured every detail was taken care of. The planning was excellent and each volunteer had their specific duty which they performed with great care and enthusiasm. Many comments were received from audience complementing the event and the volunteers on a job well done and particularly the audience appreciated the personal touch of being made to feel special. Audience included local dignitaries the Mayor of Cambridge Sheila Stuart and our MP Dr. Julian Huppert both have since written back praising the efforts of all involved.

Apart from fund raising, this event was an exercise by ICCA on building closer relationship with the broader Cambridge community and the feedback has been very positive, the proof of the pudding being that the last number the band performed had all the audience dancing on the floor which rounded off the evening perfectly. This says a lot about how a successful collaboration can benefit us all. Organisations such as CECF are a valuable resource and we must support each other to grow stronger and prosper for benefit of all. All the board members of CECF had fully supported the event and Redge Carpen the Chair also formally commented at the recent board meeting that the event was very enjoyable and encouraged future such collaborations.



Standing (l-r): Mitesh Patel (Project Support Officer), Jaipur Kawa Brass Band and Leonica Patel (ICCA Volunteer)

Seated (l-r): Eddie Stadnik (Chief Officer), Redge Carpen (Chair of CECF), Mayors Consort, Mayor of Cambridge Councillor Sheila Stuart Thakorbbhai Patel (Chair of ICCA), Vimal Patel (ICCA Volunteer), Dr. Julian Huppert MP and Diep Hoang (ABMEC C.I.C).

Finally on behalf of ICCA and personally, I wish to thank CECF, all the volunteers, the audience, our guests, ABMEC C.I.C., Mogul Tandoori, the Rao family and of course the band for making this a successful event. I look forward to building a closer and stronger partnership with CECF and other organisations to mutual benefit.

Reported by Thakorbbhai Patel
Chair of ICCA

CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

Community Focus (continued)

Mini World Cup

On Saturday 12 June 2010, at Coldhams Common, CECF together with the British Red Cross Refugee Service participated in the Mini-World Cup 2010. This is a seven-a-side competition. Through this event it is hoped to raise awareness and celebrate the diversity of the different cultures living in Cambridge, encouraging integration between them. It was a great opportunity for us to highlight Refugee Week as well as participating in an event, which is intended to bring communities together. Over 50 teams were involved in the day's event, which was supported by the Cambridgeshire Football Association and opened officially by the Mayor of Cambridge.

We had initially entered two teams for this tournament, however due to logistical problems one of our teams could not participate. Undaunted our remaining crew, Team Zimbabwe, threw themselves into the competition. The day whilst a bit overcast, was at times quite hot. However refreshments were provided by Deniz Kartel from Lunchbox, in the form of gigantic and succulent watermelons. Team Zimbabwe played there way bravely and skilfully through several games, however despite their best efforts did not qualify for the finals. But their good attitude and humour throughout, was an example to all and helped reinforce the fact that it's not just the winning, but also the taking part that counts.

For more information of the day, check out this website link:

www.bringing-communities-together.org.uk/mini-world-cup/index.htm



Team Zimbabwe with Eddie Stadnik, CECF Chief Officer (standing 2nd from left red T-shirt), Mitesh Patel, CECF Project Support Officer (Standing far right green T-shirt) and Youssef Nisy British Red Cross Advisor (kneeling 2nd right green T-shirt)
Picture taken by Karen Baldwin (CECF Volunteer)

Reported by Eddie Stadnik
Chief Officer

Punjabi Cultural Society, Cambridge (PCSC)

This Society was setup in 2009 and held its first Annual General Meeting on Friday 13 August 2010, Arbury Community Centre, which was well attended.

The Senior members of this society attend "Me & Milaap" (Get-together) every other Friday from 11:20am - 2:30pm at Arbury Community Centre, to share their experiences with others, as well as to enjoy having some hot tea and a snack lunch together prepared by the a member of community on a voluntary basis. In addition they also play cards and other table games or just socialise with plenty of laughs having a very enjoyable time together.

If you too are interested in taking part with us or just would like more information, contact me via
Tel: (01223) 462230.

Reported by Jogmohanlal Kale
Chair of PCSC

CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

Funding, Training and Volunteer News

Cambridge Racial Incident Support Project (CRISP) Training opportunities

CRISP in partnership with Equalities and Human Right Commissions (EHRC) are holding a number of training sessions over the next few months:

Date	Venue	Subject
7 th October 2010	Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8DF	Equality and Human Rights By EHRC and LIBERTY
3 rd November 2010	Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8DF	Race/Cultural Awareness By CRISP/CECF
1 st December 2010	Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8DF	Equality Impact Assessments By CRISP/CECF
12 th January 2011	Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8DF	TBC
9 th February 2011	Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8DF	Statutory Obligations of Statutory Authorities By Local council participation
9 th March 2011	Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8DF	The Equality Act By EHRC

The training is from 10am - 4pm with lunch and refreshments provided. All training material is provided. There is a small cost of £10 per Voluntary Group participant and £30 for Statutory Organisation participant. Payment in advance is requested and non-refundable on failure of participant to attend. You are free to send another representative of your organisation to the training if the original participant is unable to attend.

Please book early to avoid disappointment:

PLEASE NOTE: Participants are limited to a maximum of 20

Please contact Tony Lindsay, CRISP Project Manager or Federica Degli-Esposti, CRISP Administrator for more information, alternatively please send an email with your name, organisation and the course/s you are interested in attending via Email to: tonylindsay@cecf.co.uk or federica@cecf.co.uk or Tel: (01223) 462615.

Cambridge Online City

Free IT courses are going to be provided at CECF in due course, if anybody is interested in taking part or for more information on the courses available, please keep an eye out on our Website: www.cecf.co.uk/training-vacancies.html or contact Mitesh Patel, Project Support Officer, on Email: mitesh@cecfco.uk.

CECF Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Outreach Project – Adult Support Services

If you need advice on adult support services relating to older people, mental health, disability, HIV aids, carers, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, there is a free advice available at CECF on site, drop-in sessions will be available soon or alternatively a workshop session can be arranged at your community centre. For more information contact Toshie Kono, CECF Volunteer at cecfenquiries@cecf.co.uk or

Tel: (01223) 315877.

CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

Funding, Training and Volunteer News (continued)

MBA bursaries for individuals working in voluntary or charitable sectors

The Cambridge MBA provides students with the opportunity to gain world-class financial, accounting and strategic skills. The Sainsbury Bursary Scheme provides scholarships for students from the not-for-profit sector, and up to five awards are available each year - for either £14,000 or £28,000. (Selected recipients need to demonstrate a strong motivation to the charitable or voluntary sectors in the UK.)

The usual MBA admissions procedures apply and if you would like to discuss a possible application to the Sainsbury Bursary Scheme informally, for more information please contact via Tel: (01223) 339561 or E-mail: mba-admissions@jbs.cam.ac.uk or

Website: www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/mba/finance/finance_sainsbury.html

Free Practical help with commissioning?

15th October 2010, The Møller Centre, Cambridge

National Children's Bureau Voluntary Sector Support programme is running free training in your area. If you want to bid for health tenders, but are unclear about commissioning and what commissioners want then this training is for you. Explore health commissioning requirements, as well as undertake practical exercises.

For more information, contact them via Email: vssbulletin@ncb.org.uk or Tel: (02078) 436086 or their

Website: www.ncb.uk/vss or our Website: www.cecf.co.uk/training-vacancies.html.

Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service: Funding Central training

Tuesday 26 October: 2pm - 4.30pm CAB Advice Hub, Devonshire Road, Cambridge CB1 2BL

A free workshop for frontline organisations demonstrating the many features of Funding Central (including interactive tools), highlighting how the site can help to identify and apply for appropriate funding and finance opportunities.

Places are limited and WILL FILL UP QUICKLY. So book now. Any who book and fail to attend will be charged £40. For more information, contact them on Tel: (01223) 464696 or Email: enquiries@cambridgecvcs.org.uk. (There is no form - please give details of any special needs when you book)



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.

If you need help with any of the following:

- CV, Cover Letter or Job Application Writing
- Official correspondence - i.e. resolving disputes or making enquiries of utility companies or service providers
- General letter writing
- Essay or academic writing
- Proofreading

Please feel free to browse the EssayAssay Website: www.essayassay.com or contact Graham Roberts directly on Email: graham.roberts@essayassay.com for a no obligation enquiry/quotation.

CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

Events

Open Cambridge Weekend Friday 10/09/10 – Saturday 12/09/10, Various locations, Cambridge

The University of Cambridge is organising a weekend of free tours, talks and open access.

Cambridge is home to some spectacular architecture, fantastic art collections and beautiful gardens. Taking place across the weekend of 10-12 September, *Open Cambridge* - part of Heritage Open Days - gives families, local residents and community groups the opportunity to visit properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission.

On Friday and Saturday, their pre-bookable tours cover topics such as the history, architecture, art and gardens of the University, College and city buildings, whilst College and University departmental libraries will open their doors, allowing you to explore exciting collections and manuscripts.

In particular, visitors may be interested in the displays: *A glimpse of India at the South Asian Studies Library*. You can view photographs, artwork and home movies shot in India 1911-1956, and listen to archive recordings in which men and women reflect on events and issues they experienced during that period.

There is also the opportunity to discover the *Secrets of the African Studies Library*, where there will be a display of archive treasures from key moments in the African continent's 20th century history.

This year, the University of Cambridge are very pleased to welcome a number of city venues to the programme, which will be taking part in *Open Cambridge* for the first time. Look out for tours of some of the city's most significant and historic buildings.

Fancy a walk and a chance to visit several Colleges in one day? Then you might want to take part in the Bridge the Gap charity walk which takes place on Sunday 12 September.

For more information about event listings and bookings contact their office for more information on Tel: (01223) 766766 or Email: opencam@admin.cam.ac.uk or Website: www.admin.cam.ac.uk/opencambridge.

Black History Month and Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age 7th October 2010, 2pm-4pm 2010, Buchan Street Neighbourhood Centre, Cambridge

Karen Hiller, GO-East, is helping the Community Development Manager for North Cambridge put on an event as part of Black History Month and Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age, which will include food from around the Globe.

The event will be opened by the Mayor of Cambridge, and as an American, will also be doing a presentation of her view of culture in the two different nations.

The idea behind the event is to bring together older people from the area that may have different cultural backgrounds, to try and explore what they all have in common, but also to find out a bit more about each other.

She is however looking for more diverse and interesting organisations who are:

- 1) Older people from other backgrounds who may live close to the area who would wish to come along and enjoy the event (North Cambridge covers Arbury, Kings Hedges and Chesterton wards.
- 2) People who may wish to come and speak about their cultural experiences or provide interesting demonstrations (as the event is aimed at older people ideally they would be in that age group too).

Ideally, she would be really grateful if you are a local community group, interested to take part, particularly, but not exclusively from the following communities: Jewish, Muslim, Polish, Italian, Other African Groups, then please contact, Karen Hillen, Safer and Stronger Communities Division, GO-East via Tel: (01223) 372622 or E-mail: karen.hillen@goeast.gsi.gov.uk

For more information on Black History Month, please see the Background Stories Section on our Website: www.cecf.co.uk/events/background-stories.html

CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

Migrant Support



META Drop-in at Cambridge City Council Customer Service Centre

META Drop-in is a face to face information and support service staffed by migrant workers to help mobile communities settle quickly and effectively

Support provided includes help with:

- ◆ Your rights to live and work in the UK;
- ◆ Where to get help and advice in the UK;
- ◆ Public services;
- ◆ Applying for a National Insurance number;
- ◆ Issues related to Consulates/Embassies;
- ◆ Reading and writing letters;
- ◆ Filling in forms;
- ◆ Finding employment or volunteer work;
- ◆ Enrolling in training courses;
- ◆ Accessing the local Credit Union;
- ◆ Driving in the UK;
and many more.

**META staff provide support in the following languages:
English, Polish, Lithuanian, Russian**

Customer Service Centre, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BY



Opening hours:

Wednesday – 10am – 5pm



Cambridge Refugee and Migrant Support



Helping Asylum Seekers, Refugees & Migrant workers in Cambridge

We provide a first point of contact for asylum seekers, refugees & migrant workers in Cambridge City. Our project offers advice & support with a range of issues including:

Accessing healthcare

Benefits entitlement

Destitution

Employment

Education

Home Office documentation

Housing

Immigration advice

NASS Support

Social Services

In addition we offer free counselling services and English Language tuition.

Drop in for general advice or help

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

10am -1 pm

Service providers (by appointment only)

British Red Cross Refugee Service

Asylum seekers & refugees on a Friday 10am - 4 pm

Immigration Advisory Service

Community Legal Advice & Representation for asylum seekers & immigrants on a Tuesday.

For more information or to book an appointment please contact us on Tel: (01223) 315877.

This is a project run by the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum in partnership with the British Red Cross Refugee Service and MENTER, as well as working with Immigration Advisory Service and Refugee Migrant Justice.

CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

Services provided on CECF site



Cambridge Racial Incident

Support Project (CRISP)

Helps individuals who have been victims of discrimination, or who have been a victim of racial harassment.

Tues & Thurs (10am – 7pm)
Wednesday (10am – 4pm)
Saturday (10am – 2pm)

To book an appointment, please contact CRISP on
Tel: (01223) 462615 or
Email: crispenquiries@cecf.co.uk



Immigration Advisory Service

Community Legal Advice & Representation for Immigrants and Asylum Seekers.

For more information go to Website: www.iasuk.org

Every Tuesday (appointment only)

To book an appointment, please contact us on
Tel: (01223) 315877



British Red Cross Refugee Services

For Asylum Seekers and Refugees

For more information, go to Website:
Every Friday (10am - 4pm)

To book an appointment, please contact us on
Tel: (01223) 315877



Italian Benefit Advice

Every 1st Friday of every Month from 10am - 12 (noon)

To book an appointment, please contact Carlo Ciccarello on
Tel: 01234 357889

Drop-ins on CECF site

General Drop-in Times and Free Computer use

Monday to Friday from 10am - 1pm

Developing Partnerships with

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

CECF Staff

Chief Officer:	Eddie Stadnik
Project Support Officer:	Mitesh Patel
CRISP Project Manager:	Tony Lindsay
CRISP Caseworker	Emmanuel Obikwu
CRISP Administrator	Federica Degli-Esposti
CECF Receptionist	Asmita Sapra

CECF Management Committee

Chair:	Redge Carpen
Secretary:	Valerie Berkson
Treasurer:	Mirza Baig
Members:	Abdul Rashid Khan Anil Soni Benedict Darkwa Deniz Kartel Eva Simmons George Akelinza Hazra Awal Jogmohanlal Kale Joyce Andrade Mahendra Soopaul Marta Maj Mustafa Ongan Patricia Crampton Thakorbhai Patel



CECF Board Meeting (l-r): Jogmohanlal Kale, Thakorbhai Patel, Hazra Awal, Marta Maj, George Akelinza, Redge Carpen (Chair), Mirza Baig (Treasurer), Benedict Darkwa, Eddie Stadnik (Chief Officer), Joyce Andrade and Eva Simmons

Picture taken by Mitesh Patel (Project Support Officer)