

CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

Newsletter: Issue Four — August 2008



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CECF News

Following the successful Multi Cultural Event in March, CECF secured short term funding support from the Cambridge City Council for a development worker. Tina Shah was selected to take on that role as she was able to demonstrate her widespread knowledge of local minority community groups and her extensive voluntary experience. Taking up post in June 2008, she hit the ground running by immediately getting stuck into the task of contacting and interacting with local community organisations with a view to setting up a database of contacts. With assistance from Mitesh Patel, she also revised and updated a promotional leaflet for CECF. In conjunction with contacting local minority communities, both Mitesh and Tina worked to organise a coffee morning at the CECF premises on Thursday, 3rd July 2008. Tina was sending out invitations to the coffee morning in the middle of June followed with a courtesy call in order to add a personal touch to the invitation.

Coffee Morning Update

The personal calls paid off, 35 guests representing a wide range of community groups and organisations attended the coffee morning. As pictures paint a thousand words, the following photos taken by Rajni Shah will do the talking!



Valerie Berkson, CECF Secretary and Tina Shah welcoming guests. You will see from the coffee cups that coffee was flowing freely. Valerie, Joyce Andrade, Lileth Warford had prepared light refreshments.



Some evidence of serious networking and sharing of ideas that was taking place throughout the morning!



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CECF News (Continued)



With plenty of food available and a relaxed atmosphere generated by all involved, a number of suggestions were made for CECF activity including -

- Requests for more partnership working to help develop a more cohesive community
- Setting up a health project
- Having more coffee mornings
- Setting up training events
- Participating in local social events

to highlight just a few discussion points that we will look to develop further if possible;

The coffee morning was an excellent example of how a small and well planned event can produce very meaningful outcomes. Well done all who helped to make it a success and may there be many more such gatherings.

Development

With support from Norah Ani, Ruth McCallum from the Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services has provided a number of training sessions to the CECF Board including;

- Communications
- Strategic and Business Planning
- Finance
- Networking
- Evaluation and Monitoring

These were invaluable sessions that should provide a greater focus for the CECF board. They will be looking forward to the refresher sessions!



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Training

CECF with the support from one of the coffee morning guests is hoping to start YOGA classes at CECF premises in Victoria Road, dates to be announced via the CECF website very soon. Look out for these dates as it will offer a wonderful opportunity to improve your health and well being.

Meanwhile English as a second language classes will resume on 3rd September thanks to volunteer teacher Indu Gidwan. If you would be interested in joining these please contact CECF office.

Community News and Cohesion

A series of earth quakes struck the Sichuan Province in China during May and an estimated 70,000 lives are believed to have been lost. Local Chinese Community Leader Jason Yow appealed for prayers and support. This request was circulated via CECF communications network. We continue to pray that the recovery process will carry on progressing well and have been very impressed with the Chinese Communities' resilience and ingenuity to cope with and survive such events.

Hazra Awal, CECF chair recently visited the Chinese Community Centre in Cambridge. He was very warmly welcomed and discussions took place on how the two groups could support each other. Closer ties will continue to be forged between CECF and the Chinese Community.

During May we also heard about a number of shocking xenophobic attacks against migrant workers in South Africa. This is a salutary reminder that we can not afford to become relaxed in matters of community cohesion in this global society. A lot of work needs to be put into appreciating people for the value that they bring rather than labelling them as migrants.

Tina Shah is developing an Events Calendar so that different communities in Cambridge can synchronise activities more effectively. It will be published on CECF website soon.

Volunteer News

Tuesday 24th June 2008 Rajni Shah, Valerie Berkson and Mirza Baig attended the East of England Faiths Council summer meeting. Speaker Dr. Lincoln Sergeant [a new member of the PCT in Cambridgeshire] was stressing the importance of ensuring the appropriate delivery of public health initiatives to all members of the public including the 'hard to reach' minority groups.

Thursday, 26th June 2008 - Hazra Awal, Anil Soni, Joyce Andrade, Lileth Warford, Valerie Berkson and Mirza Baig attended the Voice for Change Road Show arranged through MENTER and their partners. It was an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues at a Regional level and learn about the development of Voluntary Sector Support.

Thursday, 26 June 2008 - Anil Soni attended the PREC AGM at the Millennium Centre, Peterborough.

A performance from Banner Theatre titled "They Get Free Mobiles....Don't They?", stories of exile and migration presented through music, song and video captivated the guests. It was very sad to see how sometimes refugees and asylum seekers are treated in the UK. We now have a very good contact point with a member of the Kurdish Community as a result this event.



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Volunteer News (Continued)

Wednesday 16th July 2008 Hazra Awal, Jason Yow, Joyce Andrade, Lileth Warford and Valerie Berkson attended the 'Army for Today' presentation at the University of Cambridge's West Road Concert Hall. It was interesting to see the way today the British Army lives and works. Many different organisations and communities were represented at the event and links were made between the groups.

Forthcoming events

Thursday, 7th August 2008 - CECF is planning to take a touring party around the City of Cambridge to appreciate those lesser known wonders of the City. Contact the office to join and enjoy this tour. If you can not make this date but would like to join another group tour later this year, please contact Tina Shah at CECF office for details of when and where this will be.

Sunday 10th August 2008 - Chinese Community are celebrating the Beijing Olympic 2008 celebrations.

Sunday, 17th August 2008 - CECF is supporting Pakistan Cultural Association celebrate Pakistan Independence details to follow on CECF Website.

Employment

CECF will be looking for, in the near future, a part time development worker to take over from and build on the superb work done so far by Tina Shah. The vacancy will be advertised on CECF Website soon.

Cambridge Ethnic Community 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
Lileth Warford

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

