

CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM

Newsletter: Issue Five – November 2008



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CECF News

CECF Board welcomes new Development Officer Eddie Stadnik. Eddie has a wealth of experience working with refugees and asylum seekers, as well as reaching out to the established community. Tina Shah, his predecessor, had laid down an excellent foundation for Eddie to carry forward a meaningful programme of work. Eddie's philosophy is reflected by a saying that you may have heard "Peace is not an absence of war; it is an active process". Applying the same reasoning, Eddie believes Community relations is not an absence of racism and prejudice, it is an active process, towards which his work will make a significant contribution.

Eddie also has friends in high places, in the picture below he is with David Lammy, Minister for Higher Education at a Fabian Society Event organised on 18th October.



Eddie and Mr Lammy spoke about civic engagement in communities and having role models and mentors to encourage individual and community participation.

Development

The output and activities of CECF have improved substantially, since the current board has been in place. CECF board comprises of highly skilled individuals and community leaders, past and present, representing the BME communities of Cambridge. In addition to the list of activities that will be mentioned throughout this newsletter, a significant level of funding has been secured as a result of some very hard work done by the Forum Trustees, to sustain the activities of the Forum.

While Tina Shah was in post as our development worker, she commenced the process of visiting community groups including the Vietnamese Community and the Ross Street Jewellery classes. Barbara Daniels, our oldest living original trustee from the days when the Forum was first created was also visited by Tina. These visits helped to reinforce the point that CECF is a thriving forum, reaching out to new and old friends alike.



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Development (continued)

Tina Shah also met with the organisers of Lifecraft who offer ongoing support work to assist people with mental health issues. The CRISP project run by the Forum will be liaising with Lifecraft representatives for advice on developing CRISP services and working in close partnership with them.

Following our very successful first coffee morning [as described in our last issue] a number of new contacts have been made, leading to engagement between other local bodies and local ethnic minority representatives. Ellen Roberts who helps run the FLIPP project at Centre 33 invited CECF members to a promotional event at Kings College in October. The FLIPP project is working with young people of all backgrounds to empower those who may have low self esteem or are disadvantaged. Young volunteers from BME backgrounds are sought to support a mentoring project currently under way. To build on this success, a further themed coffee morning will be arranged for December. If you would like to join us there, please get in touch with Eddie Studnik.

New Projects

A number of exciting new projects are being worked on or have started, including the 'Forumfield' project, for which we have secured an allotment site and are currently inviting local interested groups and individuals to be part of an environmentally sustainable initiative, aimed at introducing those from different backgrounds, with little experience of growing their own produce, to work together in an effort to create their own quality edible products. If you would like further information or are thinking of getting involved please contact Eddie Studnik.

Mitesh Patel our support worker is currently designing and developing a community events calendar to be published on our website in the near future. He will also help develop a database of contacts and interest groups, making use of our existing mailing list and the contacts of our board members as well as those highlighted in some excellent work completed by Norah Al Ani, which was supported by CECF and MENTER to map our BME communities. This work identifies over 70 minority communities in and around the City of Cambridge. CECF has commenced the process of making contact with these groups with a view to developing joint activities.

Mitesh has also revised and redesigned the CECF promotional leaflet that has been distributed to local community groups, local G.P. Surgeries, Addenbrookes Hospital and local community centres. These leaflets were also distributed at the Volunteers Fair held in Drummer Street, organised by and in support of CVS activities.



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Community and Cohesion News

CECF Board has met with a number of key individuals, such as Jo Collinson of Cambridgeshire County Council and Balan Sisupalan from our local BME community. Jo explained to CECF board members, that people who need care-help and support to stay within their own homes, can be helped by the County Council through 'Direct Payments'. Jo was pleased to have the opportunity to bring her message to a wide range of minority group representatives through CECF. She had previously found it difficult or hard to reach a sufficient range of representatives from minority groups. As a result of her meeting with CECF, CECF is now represented on the 'Diversity Forum', organised by Cambridgeshire County Council and will be actively participating, at the consultation workshops to be run on Monday 24th November at the Brown Fields Community Centre.

Balan gave an excellent presentation on the virtues of Hatha Yoga and is encouraging CECF to commence Hatha Yoga classes to promote well being and healthy living. A joint project is being planned for the New Year when Balan returns from India.

Another person, the CECF board met and are now working with, is Kati Preston, a superb story teller. Kati fascinated board members with a fantastic tale about a Chinese emperor who lost everything he valued by trying to exert too much control. Kati will be entertaining the children at our "Young People's Multicultural Party" on Sunday, 23 November, at Arbury Community Centre.

Two key events that took place in September...

Both were very well supported. One hundred and eight promises of kindness were made at the International Peace Day.

Mid Autumn Fair (Chinese Community Center, Sturton Street)

The mid-autumn festival falls on the 15th day of the eighth Chinese Lunar Calendar. This is a historical festival rather than a religious one. The legend tells how the beginning of a new dynasty was established. Invading Mongolians from the north had destroyed the Song Dynasty establishing the Yuan Dynasty (AD 1280-1368). The people of China were treated like slaves; they were oppressed and persecuted. In a daring attempt to overthrow the Mongolian rule, rebel leaders sent hidden messages to each household baked in mooncakes. The mooncakes were part of the harvest festival and so the Mongolians would never partake of these pastries. The message instructed everyone to strike and kill the Mongolians during the Mid-Autumn Festival. The attack was successful and the Ming Dynasty was established. Today, this festival is celebrated with moon cakes and lantern hanging on the house. The lantern and the moon cakes have attracted many children and adults attention. In certain area, lantern procession and competition are held.

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International Day of Peace

(Bharat Bhavan, the Indian Community Centre, Mill Road)

Peace One Day was founded in 1999 to document the efforts to create an annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence with a fixed calendar date. In 2001, POD achieved its primary objective. United Nations General Assembly [resolution \(A/Res/55/282\)](#) was unanimously adopted by UN member states, formally establishing an annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence on the UN International Day of Peace, fixed in the global calendar on 21 September - Peace Day.

With the Day in place, POD's main aim is to raise awareness of Peace Day 21 September. POD is a non-profit organisation, impartial and independent of any government, political persuasion, corporation or religious creed.

On 21 September 2008, One hundred and eight promises of kindness were made at the International Peace Day.

In 2007 according to the UN, over 100 million people were active on Peace Day, in 192 countries. There were life-saving initiatives in 14 countries and over 80 activities in Afghanistan alone where 1.4 million children were vaccinated against polio.

Training and Volunteer News

Jill Young who has worked with and for CECF for many years is a blue badge guide to Cambridge. During August on a rainy day a group of brave souls gathered in the City (Cambridge) to be shown places that would have been previously hidden secrets. Those who braved the rain were delighted by the tour and as a result more tours are being planned. We welcome enquiries for people who want to join these interesting tours and learn about our historic City.

As part of celebrating the Black History Month, CECF members have provided active support and were present at a number of events facilitated by the Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire Councils.

One such event was linked to the 'Festival of Ideas' at Anglia Ruskin University. Dave Walton from the Cambridgeshire County Council gave an excellent presentation on the local Fostering and Adoption services. He made an appeal for BME families to come forward to be put on the register of Foster Parents. If you would like more information, Dave Walton will be happy to talk to you through the Cambridgeshire County Council.



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Events

Members attended a number of events to represent the use of local ethnic minorities, including Faith Forward event organised by the East of England Faith Councils aimed at coordinating efforts of the various faith groups and their engagement with local authorities.

You will be glad to hear that news of the Forum has reached Uttlesford District Council who have made an approach, to CECF to tap into their expertise in reaching hard to reach BME groups. The CECF board will be delighted to assist.

Cambridge Caribbean Association will be hosting a open social evening, on Saturday November 29, between 7pm - 10pm at the Arbury Community Centre. Children welcome and light refreshments will be provided.

Menelik Musik and Education Ltd will be hosting "Kanda Bongo Man" on 5th December 2008, at 6:30pm, at St. Pauls Centre, Hills Road, CB2 1JP. There is an entrance fee for each member (including concessions) [£10 or £15 including meal] and for each non-member (£12 before the night or £14 at the door; or £20 including a meal) and food will be served at 8pm. Please contact Theodore on theodore15@btinternet.com or Mobile: 07842177344 or Box Office: 01223 511511 or online booking: www.juntion.co.uk

As part of the International Holocaust Memorial commemorations, taking place throughout the UK and Europe, Cambridge City Council will be hosting a free event at the Guild Hall in late January 2009. Note this event in your diaries as CECF is making a special appeal to BME community groups in and around Cambridge to promote and encourage people to attend, as the commemorations include all the Holocausts to date in the World.

CECF extends the seasons greetings to all the communities.

CECF Management Committee

Chair:	Hazra Awal	Members:
Vice Chair:	Redge Carpen	Odhavji Bharadwa
Secretary:	Valerie Berkson	Jason Yow
Treasurer:	Joyce Andrade	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