

*Working together to break down barriers and
celebrate the diversity of our great people*

Welcome to Issue 1 of Communities Together newsletter! We hope you enjoy catching up with all of the news around some of the activities our volunteers are involved in planning, together with those of other organisations and communities!

For the newsletter to continue and be a success we need your stories and input around the different activities which support equality and diversity. So please get involved.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue and thanks to you for reading!



Jayne Bacon - Editor

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From the Chair to You

When thinking about this newsletter the first word that came to my mind was WOW! What a busy three months for Communities Together!

We had the Mela, a fantastic first for us, we had approval and monies for recruiting an engagement worker and then actually managed to recruit one literally within a period of 5 weeks and then of course we had the very sad incidents at the Islamic Mosque on Weelsby Road.

Let me start with the Mela first, what an event, one of our exec committee members actually started crying when she saw this very large crowd following behind the Pipe Band when we opened the gates.

Certainly Communities Together had never seen this before. Our initial thoughts were that a foot fall of around 3000 on the day would be fantastic, we actually achieved 4164. Seeing the crowds dancing to Indian Elvis including the Mayor and my Wife, both at lunch time and in the evening session gave us all enormous pleasure.



Surinder Khurana

Bottom line, tremendously successful and we patted ourselves on the back all Sunday evening and every body is looking forward to what we are going to do next year and so am I, so any ideas are most welcome, what would you most like to see?

With regards to the engagement worker I would like to thank the Chief Executive Officer of VANEL who helped us tremendously to get the funding and then led the whole recruitment process with our support.

Congratulations and good luck to Jayne Bacon who has taken on this post. For Communities Together this is a fantastic achievement as the first critical milestone of our 5 year business plan

Grimsby Islamic Cultural Centre

The incidents at the Mosque, were very regrettable but not to be dwelled upon. If there is one positive thing that has come out of these sad incidents it was the community spirit that binds us all together.



The response from Humberside Police was fantastic and appreciated by all. Grimsby Mosque opened its doors to the community leaders, neighbours and friends.

The feast they provided on the day was almost like a royal banquet and some of us had the opportunity to sample and enjoy it. I would like to express my thanks to the Mosque for doing this in a very positive and open manner.

These incidents are still active with regards to police investigations and therefore at this time we can not say anything more about this.

Surinder Khurana

Meet our Volunteers



This column is to introduce our wonderful volunteers and show how they are involved with Communities Together.

Who you are you?

Fumiko Czarnecki

Where you are originally from?

Japan

How long you have lived in North East Lincolnshire?

We moved to Grimsby in June 2006.

How long you have volunteered for Communities Together?

6 and a half years.

What do you enjoy most as a volunteer for Communities Together?

I enjoy being able to know so many wonderful people who are committed to make our community multi-cultural, diverse and equal; full of respect and care. I appreciate them for their loyal friendship too.

There may be obstacles in front of us but I feel very confident we can tackle them together, with wisdom and courageous action.

I am aware that we are culturally generating a new moral compass in North East Lincolnshire, which excites me most.

At the same time I feel responsible for my thinking, my way of living and my attitude to others and the community as an ordinary human being.

My country Japan, is not very culturally diverse. I did not realise when I was living there the importance of working together to promote equality and diversity.

The work I do with Communities Together inspires and encourages me a great deal. If we continue to promote this message and educate our community to understand that everyone is equal and has a right to be happy and respected, eventually society will change focusing on the person and there will be less violence, bullying and discrimination.

Meet our Volunteers

So I am very grateful to Communities Together and my fellow volunteers; people who are comprised of different cultures and backgrounds. As we live in a world filled with differences, we need to meet and talk openly and courageously. If I don't take any action I would close myself from the community and wouldn't learn anything from others.

When I work for Communities Together as a volunteer, I feel we are working to educate society, ultimately towards people's happiness and peace.



Fumiko



Cultural Mela Raffle Prize Winner!

Thank you to Joe Mager and Sophie Johnson who are Apprentice Development Workers at Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire (VANEL) for drawing the winning raffle ticket from the Cultural Mela on 9th June.

The winning ticket number was white 105 and was won by Sue from Grimsby. The prize of £100 in vouchers was generously donated by Lincolnshire Co-operative who have also chosen Communities Together for their Community Champions fund raising programme.



has been celebrated across the UK every October for over 30 years.

The aims of the celebration are to promote knowledge of Black history and experience, distribute information on positive Black contributions to British society and heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people in their cultural heritage.

People from NE Lincolnshire have been celebrating diverse cultures over the last few years. Communities Together have promoted international market, cultural shows and of course the multi-cultural Mela, which have attracted large audiences.

Please let us know how you celebrated Black History Month and we will include it in our next edition which will be out in January. Photographs would be very welcome!

More info on Black History Month can be found at www.black-history-month.co.uk.

Dream, Hope and Wish!



Dream flags created on the NEL Community Learning Services Stall at the Communities Together Cultural Mela 2013!



**Simon Cross, Chaplain
Oasis Academy
Wintringham**

north east lincs
interfaith
forum



&

Interfaith Forum Lead

The goal of much Interfaith work is to build a platform of common understanding and respect between adherents of different faiths.

As a Christian, my own faith is actually strengthened and encouraged by a greater knowledge and understanding of the beliefs of others.

For each of us, there can be much to learn from others too – Christians know that we only ‘see in part’ and it is wise to consider thoughtfully the beliefs and practises of those around us.

That is why this year I will be taking part in the Ramadan fast, the annual daylight fast practised by Muslims all around the globe during the ninth month of the Islamic year. As a Christian I already incorporate fasts in my own spiritual practise, but this special month long daylight fast is unusual and wonderful both in scale and manner.

My Muslim friends believe that this is a time that is particularly holy and blessed, when acts of charity are rewarded, and when disputes should be set aside.

My intention is to use the time to meditate on one of the 99 names of Allah to be found in the Koran – Al Wadud, which means ‘The One Love’; ‘The Loving One’; and ‘The One Who Is The Source Of All Love’.

This concept of God is one that is very familiar to all Christians, and is at the core of the New Testament, which declares that ‘God Is Love’. I pray that all will come to know Al Wadud more deeply.

I should say that my intention is not necessarily to fast for the whole month, as I have some practical issues to consider. I do however plan to fast for a period during the month of Ramadan, and I hope to join my Muslim friends for some of that time.

The more we humble ourselves to listen to and learn from those who follow different paths from our own, the better we can see the whole picture.

Ramadan runs for thirty days, in early July – upon the sighting of the new moon.

Simon

north east lincs
interfaith
forum



Quote of the Issue

“No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive”

Mahatma Gandhi, leader of Indian nationalism (1969 – 1948)

If you have a quote which relates to inclusion or anti-discrimination, please send it in to:
jaynenelct@gmail.com

DIVERSITY

We think the media plays a huge role in how our communities form views around our equality issues.

Below are some story titles taken from a range of mainstream newspapers. Whether positive or negative, raising awareness of media coverage is a great way to introduce and tackle equality themes.

Poorer students denied same opportunities

‘Radical changes’ needed to cope with ageing Brits

Women dominate list of UK’s finest young novelists

Firms ‘must do more’ in community



NEW FACE: Krissi Bohn

Corrie to add ethnic stars

‘Equality’ was said so often it became as bruised as an old peach

The North East Lincolnshire Justice and Peace Group

NEL Justice and Peace Group is an ecumenical gathering of people who are drawn together by their concern for all kinds of injustice among which is human trafficking.

In June they hosted a talk about Hope for Justice which is an anti-human trafficking organisation working to uncover and abolish the hidden crime of modern-day slavery. As a non-governmental organisation they gather intelligence and assist in the process of removing victims from exploitation within the UK.

Human trafficking is not someone else's problem, it's happening in our communities, in our neighbourhoods, in our country.

Hope for Justice has four areas of operation:

Investigate and Rescue

The organisation responds to intelligence received from non-governmental organisations and community groups, intelligence is submitted to the police and can form part of the picture where a larger organised crime culture exists.

Assist

While not providing aftercare themselves, they work closely with those who do, to assist in the protection and rehabilitation of victims.

Perpetrator Accountability

They believe that perpetrators should be held responsible for their crimes via prosecution. They work to ensure that victims are properly recognised as such through referral into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and they forward intelligence to police to assist in bringing perpetrators to justice.

Campaign

They campaign at a local, national and international level. They want to see more traffickers prosecuted and more victims protected.

Support their campaign at <http://hopeforjustice.org.uk/campaigns>

For further details contact: john.vivgames@ntlworld.com



Shoreline's Ministry of Saving

Making your money go further

Strapped for cash? Feeling the pinch? Need to make your money go further?

Shoreline's Ministry of Saving could be just the thing this summer! The area's largest affordable housing provider is taking inspiration from wartime Britain and inviting tenants to two free days of:

Make do and Mend money-management support, advice and activity.

Learn how to make do and mend, grow your own veg, take up sewing and fix it yourself.

Pick up thrifty tips and super-scrimping ideas. Swap unwanted, good condition clothes for something you'll love at the Shoreline clothes swap.

Shoreline's **Ministry of Saving** events take place on:

Tuesday 6 August 2013

11am – 3pm
St James Church,
Grimsby

Enjoy DIY demos, cooking with leftovers, free goodie bags, money saving giveaways and fantastic prize draws.

There's fun for the young including Mr Shiney, face painting and children's car tracks.

Plus Shoreline will be on hand to provide welfare advice, support and money-management tips.

Please come and speak to us at the Communities Together stand!

Friday 9 August 2013

11am – 3pm
Cleethorpes Memorial
Hall, Cleethorpes

For more details visit www.shorelinehp.com

The Centre was founded and has been managed by Anna Bernacka while Iwona Fraczczyk who is the Deputy Director, with responsibility for financial matters.

The school, founded in February 2012, has an enormous following amongst the Polish community in Grimsby and its neighbourhood.

At the start, there were 16 pupils and three teachers. Currently, however, the number of pupils amounts to 30 while the staff consists of 8 people: the Headteacher, who works elsewhere also as a teacher, the Deputy Headteacher, responsible for the management of the school, 3 teachers who respectively take care for three age groups of pupils, the RE teacher and two teaching assistants.

As new candidates join the school on a regular basis, we may assume that in the next year the number of pupils will continue to increase.

The first school activities took place in a Parish , but since April 2012 the Centre takes advantage of hired facilities at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy in Cleethorpes. Typically for Polish schools abroad, the children are being educated in the Polish language, history, geography and religion.

In the academic year 2013/14 we are going to launch a preparatory group for pupils who wish to apply for GCSE Polish. We have also arranged an English language course for adults.

The school is funded entirely from parents' contributions. Its monthly budget amounts to no more than £510 (payments are £20 monthly per one child; £15 for a second or a third child).

The Polish School in Grimsby acts as a voluntary organisation. Its central purpose is to fulfill the needs of those young people who wish to learn more about Polish culture and tradition as well as develop Polish language skills. We are keenly interested in co-operating with cultural and educational organizations related to different national and ethnic communities.

Iwona Fraczczyk



An OSSCA Winner!

Last but absolutely not least, we are delighted to report that our Chair, Surinder Khurana was nominated for an Outstanding Safer and Stronger Communities Award (OSSCA) for his extensive work in advancing equality in North East Lincolnshire.

He was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at a glittering ceremony in May.

Cleethorpes born actress Julie Peasgood described the winners as 'truly selfless'. The star said "These awards recognise people who do fantastic things for their communities without seeking reward. "True altruism; not for ego but simply to help."



Congratulations SK!

PS Sorry to have embarrassed you.....

All of you who know of Surinder and his work will agree I'm sure, that this description suits him admirably.

In fact when he was presented with the award, his first response was "I didn't know I had been nominated and when I saw the list of nominees I never thought I would win. It is a shock".

Well it's not a shock to us Surinder, we know you truly deserve it.