

Spring, 2014

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

It's amazing how quickly the year has flown by! It has been a pleasure to be the first Community Development Worker for Communities Together, but I did say I would only be able to stay in the Community Development role for a year, and how eventful that year has been.

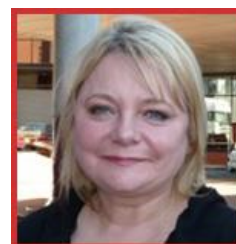
The Mela was obviously a highlight as it was the largest event that Communities Together had ever organised, and this year we hope to have an even bigger and better Mela.

It is also a pleasure to tell you the Communities Together have been short listed for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, an annual award made to recognise and reward excellence in voluntary activities carried out by groups in the community. Fingers crossed everyone!

Our new Community Development Worker, Jill Wilson will take over as Editor of the newsletter and I know with the enthusiasm she demonstrates, together with her extensive experience it will definitely be an interesting read.

Very best wishes

Jayne



In this issue:-

- From the Chair to You, Surinder Khurana
- Jill Wilson – Community Development Worker
- An update from PC Steve Jones – Community Cohesion Officer
- Meet our volunteers – Caroline Spence
- The Zoe Challenge Saturday 17th May 2014. 10.00am - 2.00pm
- NEL Interfaith Forum – Simon Cross
- Quote of the Issue
- Holocaust Memorial
- Cultural Day Bert Boyden Centre

The one thing I can always categorically state is that the life as Chair of Communities Together is always busy and very exciting. Over the last four months we held D-Factor, celebrated the Holocaust Memorial Day jointly with GIFHE, jointly hosted the first ever Diversity Day in Immingham with Care4All and representatives from CT were invited to attend the arrival of HMS Grimsby to its home port.

So hardly a month passes by without us getting involved in one event or another! All working towards our mission of promoting diversity and cultural awareness in the area. If that was not enough, every Wednesday for five weeks we ran cultural awareness training for our colleagues in Humberside Police. When I look back at what we have achieved, I sometimes wonder how I get the time to do my personal work as the Director of nine Care Homes.



**Surinder
Khurana**

D-Factor organised by Jill Hetherington of SERCO and Jayne Bacon from CT. The range of acts reflected the theme of diversity, Taiko, Bollywood dancing, Irish folk music, singing in English and Latvian, to name just a few. Unfortunately I could not attend as I was on holiday, but from the feedback it looks like it went extremely well and is growing every year. So January 2015 - watch this space.

Holocaust Memorial Day - thanks to Aretha Kaye, (GIFHE Equality and Diversity Coordinator) who primarily led the organisation of the event.

As per previous years we fully participated in this event. Every year this commemoration brings tears to the eyes of many of the attendees. and it is good that we do not ever forget the terrible carnage that took place and unfortunately are still taking place in many countries.

We must always remind ourselves of what harm these atrocities do to communities; innocent people who get caught up in these things some often ending up as refugees.

When HMS Grimsby, a Royal Navy Sandown-class mine hunter arrived at its home port of Grimsby, representatives from CT were invited to attend the official reception aboard the vessel on the 25th January 2014.

We were proud to hold our first Diversity Day at the Bert Boyden Centre, Immingham in partnership with Care4All part of the Care Plus Group.

We have held diversity events in other places but not in Immingham, the variety of the events, that took place in the Centre included: Belly dancing, Bollywood dancing, table cricket, a childrens' entertainer, face painting, henna painting and Indian, Chinese and Arabic cookery demonstrations.

I still wonder how we managed to fit all of these events into a five hour celebration.

Cultural awareness training for Humberside Police was something we had been planning for months and during the planning it took many twists and turns, but eventually it happened. The first session started on Wednesday 5th March 14 with the last session being held on Wednesday 2nd April 14.

It was fantastic to see the community groups participating in this training, they were all volunteers and making a commitment to be present every Wednesday to speak at the training sessions. It was not easy, but it was done and there are so many people who participated in providing this training that if I start mentioning everyone by name I would probably run to a half page.

If all of that was not enough, we are very busy preparing for our Mela on Sunday 3rd August 2014. Please put this date in your diary now and make sure that you tell all your friends and families, use social media to make sure that everybody you know puts this date in their diary too.

As per last year we will have the Scottish Pipe Band, Indian Elvis, the Sikh Martial Arts (Gatka) display, Bollywood dancing, Clifton Dance Academy, Grimsby Academy of Performance and to top it all we are also bringing a Bhangra team from London.



It will be an event not to be missed, where else would you see all of these different cultural artists demonstrate their skills on the same day, on the same stage.

There is no other comparison, so I really hope to see all of you there and our target will be at least six to seven thousand attendees. Your support in making this a very successful event and meeting the target would be really appreciated. Posters and programmes are being developed now and of course we will find ways of sending these to you, as soon as they are ready.

I would also like to take this opportunity of welcoming Jill Wilson as our new Engagement Worker, starting on the 1st May 2014. I would like to thank Paula Grant (CEO of VANEL) who led and drove the whole of the process to find Jayne's replacement.

David Hilditch, Paula and I were involved in creating the short list and then the final decision was made by the Executive Committee. So Jill, congratulations on being successful on the tough process of interview and selection. We welcome you and wish you the very best in your new challenges.

Jayne, I know you are still going to carry on volunteering with CT and staying on our Executive Committee, but it would be very remiss of me if I did not thank you, in this very public newsletter, for all of the work that you have done in making sure that CT has become very well known with all our partner organisations and really flying the flag around the work that we do.

So as I close, all I can say is see you all at the Mela on the 3rd August 2014. Please, if you would like to volunteer to help us on the day, send me an email offering your services (surinder.khurana@cloverdalecarehome.net)

Surinder

Just a few of the attractions who are performing on the 3rd August!

Clifton School of Dance



The Grimsby Academy of Performers



Earthbound Misfits



A fabulous Bhangra dance group from London



The one and only Indian Elvis



Gatka – Sikh Martial Art



Scottish Pipe Band



Bouncy Castle



And lots more. Look out for further details soon!

Introducing Jill Wilson CT Community Development Worker



Hello,

I would like to introduce myself to the Communities Together readership as the new Community Development Worker. My name is Jill Wilson and I officially take over from Jayne Bacon on the 1st May 2014.

I would like to thank Jayne for the time and help she has given me to make my role and the transition a smooth process.

I have worked in the Community Development world in the 2000's and then later moved into the world of business.

I have had the joy and the pleasure of working with some of the best community volunteers in North East Lincolnshire helping them to achieve and succeed.

When I reflect upon my working life, this is where I believe I was most happy and content.

It seemed sensible to me, as I thought about my future, that I should therefore return and try to help others in their journey towards success.

I hope over the coming months I will be able to report to you many of those successes. If you think you might be able to help Communities Together, or would just like to learn more about their goals, please telephone me on 01472 235311.



Humberside Police – Protecting Communities, Targeting Criminals

I have been in the Community Cohesion role since October 2013 and have had a very challenging few months getting up to speed about a role that hasn't existed in North East Lincolnshire for around 3 years, but the challenge has also been very exciting, meeting new people from our varied communities, forming professional relationships with the many partner agencies that I work with to improve the lives of the people within our communities.

I have also recently completed a series of Cultural Awareness Training days for the police with the support of Communities Together members, which was very successful and well received by those attending. Throughout the rest of this year I will be building on the relationships already established and hope to create more, I also want to push hate crime reporting so that all people who suffer hate crime no longer suffer it in silence and that all those people will gain the confidence to report all incidents to the police where they will be supported and helped to reduce the upset and stress that such incidents can cause

Stephen.Jones@humberside.pnn.police.uk



Hi there,

I am Caroline Spence, the Secretary of Communities Together and an Executive Member. I've been involved with Communities Together since 2007 when I started working for Humberside Police as Community Cohesion Officer, I am employed by North East Lincolnshire Council as a Curriculum Manager in Community Learning Services and the hours I spend on Communities Together work is as a volunteer.

During my involvement with Communities Together, I have organised many events, some of which are International Markets and Cultural Shows. I have supported various other events organised by other Communities Together volunteers and on occasion have even been the official photographer!



I created the Governance structure with others and contributed to the Business Plan to ensure that we had a clear structure to work towards and to 'professionalise' the organisation so we can take forward the issues raised.

Hate Crime has been particularly important to me and I continue to work with Safer and Stronger Communities and the Police on the hate crime agenda to ensure people with hate motivated issues within our communities are dealt with fairly.

Equality and fairness is very close to my heart and that is what motivates me with my work with Communities Together.

Meet our Volunteers

I am very proud of the work I have done with Communities Together and have met some wonderful people and made some great friends. This work has resulted in a commendation from the Chief Constable of Humberside Police and I have an OSSCA (Outstanding Safer Communities Award) and again I am very proud of those awards and other nominations.

The next phase for Communities Together is to secure funding, work in partnership with employers, support those who need it most and work on our social media presence – please help us with all of these!

Caroline



Zoe Challenge 2014 Saturday 17 May 2014. 10.00am - 2.00pm

The Zoe Challenge is named after one of the first girls Hope for Justice rescued

In May 2014 Hope for Justice supporters will be hosting sponsored walks up and down the country with the aim of chalking up a total of 12,416 miles – the distance from the North to the South Pole – and raising £125,000 to fund their specialist investigators, lawyers and aftercare staff.

If you want to join in the Grimsby walk please contact john.vivgames@ntlworld.com or 07758613267



**Simon Cross, Chaplain
Oasis Academy
Wintringham**

north east lincs
interfaith
forum



&

Interfaith Forum Lead

Going without food for forty days is not something which I had ever really considered trying.

I like to eat, I like to share meals with loved ones, and I like to linger around a table enjoying good food and pleasant company.

But for just about six weeks during the season of Lent this year, I gave up the pleasures and necessities of food to help raise awareness of food poverty.

It's a tragic truth that in this current climate of austerity, people across our country are going without food, not through choice, but out of necessity.

One in five mothers have admitted to missing meals in order to feed their children, and all across the country, and particularly in areas of social and economic deprivation, families are making tough choices about who gets to eat on a day to day basis.

This despite the fact that the UK is the sixth richest country in the world, where footballers can cream in tens of thousands of pounds per week, and where money can suddenly become 'no object' when it comes to the (crucial certainly) task of repairing flood damaged communities.

Our own local food bank, administered by CARE NE Lincs in partnership with Churches Together reports a huge increase in take up of emergency food parcels. They have fed more than 5000 individuals over the last 12 months. This in a town where the population is only 65,000... that is a significant proportion of the population.

So I fasted, it seemed to go on forever. But fortunately I am well nourished, and I was well prepared, I didn't suffer any real ill effects. The same cannot be said for those who are missing meals here and there, and are having to beg, steal and borrow to see themselves through the weeks.

simon.cross@oasiswintringham.org

These are the people who are most at risk of exploitation by pay day lenders, these are the people who are most at risk of exploitation by sellers of 'cheap' food which is made up of empty calories and adds only to the obesity epidemic.

These are our neighbours, our friends, sometimes our family members... These are the people who live in our communities, and they should not be ignored.

Nobody should go hungry, but for a nation as rich as ours hunger is nothing short of a scandal, a disgrace. I hope my fast and my six weeks of moderate discomfort helped raise awareness of this.

In the schools I work in, generous staff and students gave hundreds of items of food to the food bank.

Other friends did the same, this is great. Our food bank needs support through donations if it is to meet the growing need.

But beyond that the government must act, and act now, to bring to a halt this scandal of hunger, of jobs which don't pay enough (40% of those requiring food hand outs are in work), of zero hour contracts which guarantee nothing, and of big companies ruthlessly exploiting the hunger of impoverished people.

This is urgent. We must End Hunger Fast.

Simon

north east lincs
interfaith
forum



Quote of the Issue

If you have a quote
which relates to
inclusion or anti-
discrimination, please
send it in to:

talktoj.m.wilson@mail.com

“First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out, because I was not a communist;

Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out, because I was not a socialist;

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out, because I was not a trade unionist;

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out, because I was not a Jew;

Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out for me.”

Martin Niemöller



Holocaust Memorial Day Grimsby Institute

HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

Text and photographs kindly provided by The Grimsby Institute



The Mayor of North East Lincolnshire, Mrs Peggy Elliott and attendees at the Holocaust Memorial Commemoration at Grimsby Institute.

Staff and learners at the Grimsby Institute were joined by fellow learners from Yorkshire Coast College in Scarborough and the Mayor of the Borough of North East Lincolnshire, Councillor Peggy Elliott, in a commemorative ceremony to honour Holocaust Memorial Day 2014.

Holocaust Memorial Day is held on January 27th every year, marking the anniversary of the liberation of concentration camps across Europe where mass-genocide took place during World War II and other subsequent genocides.

The Grimsby Institute Group's Equality & Diversity Coordinator, Aretha Kay, explained the significance of the event: "Holocaust Memorial Day is held every year to commemorate holocausts that have happened around the world particularly during World War II. We are continuing to face situations where holocausts happen.

"We've had many people from the community joining our learners, who've been studying about the Holocaust, to gain a deeper awareness of these issues. The work our learners have produced, which has been displayed in our Reception, has been focused on how we can prevent these things happening in the future and build a safer and stronger community."

Lieutenant Commander of HMS Grimsby, Simon Kelly, and members of community group, Communities Together, attended the service alongside visitors from Glogow Higher Vocational School in Poland, who are spending a week improving their English at the Institute as part of an ongoing partnership between the two education providers.

Beata Frydryczak, who teaches History of Culture at Glogow, said: "We come to the UK and the Grimsby Institute quite often as part of an agreement between the two institutions and we feel very at home here.

It is very important for us to remember history in order to prevent these things from happening in the future.



The Mayor together with the Principal of Grimsby Institute, Sue Middlehurst, Equality & Diversity Co-ordinator Aretha Kay and Lieutenant Commander of HMS Grimsby, Simon Kelly look at displays created by learners.

Even though these things happened along time ago, similar things are still happening in countries throughout Europe and we should all do our best to remember these things and prevent them from happening again."

**Reflections on their visit by learners from
The Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Learning**

I really enjoyed the trip to The Holocaust Centre, we learned many things about Hitler and how he became powerful.

When we first got there we had an introduction about what the Centre is and all that's in it. They told us about the Ghetto and Concentration Camps. I liked looking at all the old pictures of the families and reading their names and seeing how many there was in their family. I thought it was really interesting when there was a picture of the person and a story below of how they survived the Holocaust.

The part I most enjoyed was when Simon Winston came in to talk to us, he was just a child in the Ghetto and Holocaust, he originally comes from Poland. Simon told us a very interesting story of how he survived by hiding in one place and another and how his family offered a soldier a bar of gold and the soldier saved his family's life by helping them hide.

Jessica Blythe

When we went to the Holocaust Centre I really enjoyed learning about what happened in World War Two. I was specifically interested in the facts the tour guide told us as I have always had an interest about what happened in the Holocaust and by having the talk by Simon Winston it brought home how real it was.

Towards the end of the expedition there were a pile of stones which will some day represent the 1.5 million children who died in the Holocaust. My friends and I all took a stone and threw it onto the pile to show our respect.

Georgea Nutbran

When I went to the Holocaust Centre I really enjoyed the experience. When we arrived we had an introduction to see what we knew about the Holocaust and we got shown pictures of the more infamous concentration camps.

We learned many things about Hitler and how he rose to power. There were many pictures on the wall which we got to see during our walk around the centre, we also saw footage of survivors talking about their experiences. At the end of the tour we got to listen to Simon Winston, his family went into hiding during World War Two. This was the part I personally enjoyed the most as I really liked hearing his experiences and how he felt as a small child going through something like that. He told us stories about the war and how his grandparents were taken from the ghetto and killed.

I think that people need to know about the Holocaust and become more aware of what did happen in World War Two and how people were treated.

Rebecca Ablett



In partnership with Care4All Communities Together held a Cultural Diversity Day at the Bert Boyden Centre, Immingham. This event was opened by the Mayor of Immingham, Mr Brian Duke and the Managing Director of Care4All Jo Barnes.

The event was well supported by the members of Communities Together with cookery demonstrations of Indian, Chinese and Arabic food by members of those communities.

There were also performances of traditional Indian dance, a belly dancing workshop and steel drumming throughout the day. A children's performer provided entertainment for the younger attendees. The face painting and henna hand painting were extremely popular.

A children's drawing competition was judged by the Mayor and a 25.00 prize awarded on the day. Sixty eight pounds was raised from the raffle and refreshments stall and this will be donated to Community Voice, Immingham.

Among the feedback from the day "It's a shame we don't have more of this kind of thing in Immingham'.



Pictures speak louder than words!



The wonderful cookery demonstrations – yummy!



*David and Ian on flag & gate duty **again!***





NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE
COMMUNITIES TOGETHER
FOR RACIAL EQUALITY AND JUSTICE



Save the Date!

Communities Together are holding their second multi-cultural 'Mela' festival in Cleethorpes on Sunday 3rd August at the Meridian Park.

Join us there for a fun packed day!

Entertainment 11 – 17.00hrs.



Meridian Park
Kingsway
Cleethorpes
DN35 0BY

