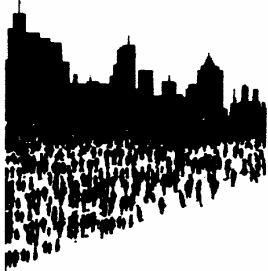


# HOPE IN THE CITIES



## Seasons Greetings

*As the current year draws to a close, it is with much gratitude that we send this our third Newsletter for the year. We send you Seasonal Greetings and wish a prosperous New Year to you all!*

### DIALOGUES THAT BUILD COMMUNITY

Hope in the Cities (HiC) is working in partnership with community leaders, to help to create community cohesion. It is training up dialogue facilitators and using honest conversation dialogues to build trust-based relationships between diverse people on real issues affecting their communities. This newsletter gives some examples of how this work is making a difference.

## Newsletter

December 2003

### SECOND NOTTINGHAM DIALOGUE

A Neighbourhood Centre created by the people of the local area of St Ann's was the venue for the second Nottingham Dialogue organised and facilitated jointly by Hope in the Cities, Cross Cultural Networks and the Racial Equality Council. 27 people took part. They represented different cultural backgrounds, local community workers, young people, the police and long-term residents. The September Dialogue, facilitated by Lawrence Fearon and Joe Pearce, took place on Friday evening, October 12, and continued during the morning and afternoon of the next day.

Unfortunately St Ann's has a reputation in the city for violence, drugs and gun crime. But during the Dialogue this negative image of the area was countered by the many positive and affectionate views expressed by those who lived or worked there. There was no rose-tinted picture painted of the needs or problems involved, but discussions produced ideas and convictions for long-term community building. Some people had a new insight into the opportunities they have to make a difference. One woman who works in the area realised the privileged position she has in being able to do this. There are plans for a further series of dialogues, the training of facilitators, and events

to celebrate the true values of this multi-racial, multi-faith, dynamic part of the city.

*Richard Hawthorne*

### LIVERPOOL

HiC dialogues focus on "what's right, not who's right." In Liverpool the local HiC dialogue Facilitation Training Programme was launched at the Neighbourhood Renewal Centre in Toxteth and continued at South Liverpool Personnel a local employment agency. Eleven trainees signed up to take part. It was for six full days over a period of six weeks. It started October 30. They include representatives of local community organisations, local government personnel involved in Equal Opportunities and local regeneration and from Liverpool Hope University College. It was evident that all are passionately concerned about the need to deal with the lack of trust that bedevils grassroots community development. "The phrase that jumped out of the introductory paper for me was 'Not who is right, but what is right'!", commented one of the participants, who is involved in a significant equal opportunities initiative in the City, helping disadvantaged young people into further education

*Gerald Henderson*

### DISCOVERY DAY – Swanwick, 11 October 2003

Many positive experiences of community action were shared at a public event in Swanwick, Derbyshire, part

of a National Consultation of *Initiatives of Change*. People engaged in the work of Hope in the Cities were among those, from all walks of life, who told about a wide variety of encouraging, risk-taking initiatives in the meetings and interactive workshops

These included news of HGV drivers' training, especially for black and ethnic minority job-seekers, diversionary activity for bored youngsters in a small Yorkshire village and the *Learn to Lead* experience of university students in Sheffield. All of these gave networking opportunities and encouragement to participants, especially those working with young people in Leeds, Huddersfield and Liverpool.

It was evident that the spirit, which a number of people had experienced whilst attending the *Initiatives of Change* international conferences in Caux, Switzerland, in recent summers, had been translated into action on a partnership basis in Nottingham. This was the case in youth activity needs research in Leeds; and was also demonstrated by an Angolan student in Bradford, who had taken part, who had a challenging refugee experience in the Congo.

The Dialogue related activity pioneered by *Hope in the Cities* was recognised as an effective way forward in building community in a wide variety of locations – applying in practice the Government's aims to improve social cohesion and move beyond anti-social behaviour.

## **COMMUNITY COHESION – How is London developing?**

This month Hope in the Cities was present at the launch of Southwark Racial Incident Forum, one of the outcomes from MacPherson's Report.

Under the Community Cohesion guidelines the government, not only hope to reduce racial tension and value diversity, but encourage all to have a common vision and sense of belonging.

As part of Central Government, Single Regeneration Campaign against Hate Crime, public bodies have now to provide opportunities for public debate in respect of transparency and to challenge racism whether it be by individuals or by institutions.

Managed by Southwark Race and Equalities Council, the Forum hopes to involve a wide cross section of the community and agencies in initiatives against Hate Crime in support of victims and to work toward a more tolerant society.

Southwark has 32.3 % of Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) community compared with a London average of 24 %. It currently has the eight highest recorded rate of crime of 14 inner London Boroughs, with over eleven hundred cases of race hate crime reported in 2000/2001. Other concerns are that in known cases where racial discrimination is more obvious, some victims are deterred from lodging their complaint, and often most racial incidents are recorded as common assault between neighbours- this forum aims to change that.

The issues around the death of Damilola Taylor and key actions taken by some agencies as a result of the Steven Lawrence incident has provided some added impetus for a multi-agency approach.

The Forum will bring together representative of local BME community, business and others to share experiences, to develop ideas and proposals for preventative, remedial work and to act as a think-tank and a voice for change in policy and strategic objectives.

Hope in the Cities and Southwark Race Equalities Council have spoken about holding dialogues with the various communities organisations and bodies to try to help alleviate the situation.

*Monica McIntosh.*

## **HUDDERSFIELD**

### **Sustaining the community in Huddersfield**

Profile of Eagle Eye Enterprise Ltd

Denzil Nurse, community activist and Managing Director of Eagle Eye Enterprise Ltd (EEE) in Huddersfield gives a profile of the enterprise. "*Our aim is to enable our 'members' to overcome the barriers to their involvement in local regeneration and other social and economic opportunities*" he says.

In response, the company has received development support from a local Housing Association and the locally administered European Regional Development Fund.

Eagle Eye Enterprise Ltd. is a local managing and enabling company established to support fledgling voluntary groups and local trades people to engage effectively in community activities, through the medium of training and enterprise development."

The company has positioned itself as a link between mainstream organisations and local 'first rung' grassroots organisations, principally under a Consortium arrangement.

The company aims to respond to the felt need of the African Caribbean community to become involved in, and benefit from, the current economic regeneration in the Huddersfield and Kirklees area.

EEE is developing this practice on 2 fronts,

- To encourage and promote community and voluntary organisations as prospective businesses/ community enterprises.
- To develop a 'conduit' for fledgling, local labour initiatives.

The company targets African Caribbean groups, organisations and trades people who lack the opportunity to contribute to the regeneration of the community, principally:

- Those people whose 'first level' training is inadequate for the present labour market, and requires support to meet current demands.
- Trades people who are seeking to make their skills count within the community.

- Local minority firms who have not structured their work in a business framework.
- Skilled/semi-skilled members who can benefit from a supportive infrastructure and work force development and training.

*Denzil Nurse*

## UPDATE FROM LEEDS

John Sephula, Youth & Community development worker in Leeds, in a previous newsletter, mentioned he was in the process of consulting with young people from disadvantaged communities. The aim of the consultation was to find out from young people their views about where they live and how the area can be improved.

The consultation exercise was completed in September 2003 and a report was produced to local councillors recently. The report is currently being used to inform youth service provision and delivery in three geographical areas in Leeds.

In terms of the findings of the consultation young people consistently raised two issues of concern about their area; community safety and drugs. Contrary to popular belief, the indications are that young men aged 16-24 are particularly susceptible to physical attacks and robbery.

As a result of the findings, John has been asked by a local youth sub group, which was established by two local councillors in February 2003, to draw up plans for a half-day workshop involving young people, local agencies and some local councillors. Young people will decide the agenda and determine which agencies to invite. Furthermore, young people will play a major role in facilitating the workshops.

Another underlying theme of the workshops is to encourage local partnership work. In this regard, several statutory and voluntary agencies working in the area are keen to contribute to make the workshops meaningful and successful.

The central aim of the day is to give young people a voice and to build on the process of dialogue to enable the community to address issues such as personal and general community safety issues.

*John Sephula*

## CAUX 2003

Each summer delegates from all corners of the globe and from every kind of background go to Caux Switzerland for conferences that focus on issues of reconciliation and justice from a perspective of personal responsibility. Individuals are challenged to work for change, starting with themselves in their own attitudes and motives.

This summer on the 11 –15 July 2003 Hope in the Cities, in collaboration with Caux Conference for Business and Industry (CCBI), through the conference ‘Globalisation... as if People Really Matter’ aimed to do just that.

At the Hope in the Cities pre-Conference workshop, entitled ‘What will it take to create sustainable communities?’. Facilitators from UK and US presented three modules – ‘What does it take to be a change agent?’, ‘How to facilitate an HiC dialogue’ ending with some working time on teambuilding – ‘how to develop true, and sustainable teams?’. It was attended by 60 people in a place of safety that allowed the conversation to move from one of the head to one of the heart. A Columbian woman, from an area faced with the challenges of violence and drugs, said, ‘in my country we need this honest conversation: our people are aware that change is needed in human nature. For the first time in my life I believe ‘I can make a difference in my country’.

At a plenary session, two distinguished speakers, themselves on opposing sides of the globalisation debate, showed that even where there is disagreement, there was also a certain optimism as they listened to each other and began to find some common ground.

**Barrie Brazier**, who works for the Nottingham, and District Racial Equality Council, had this to say...

*‘Arriving at East Midlands airport for my flight to Geneva I met up with other delegates who were travelling from Nottingham. Some I knew others I had met briefly or knew of them by name. Now we were travelling to the same destination...Caux! At this point I have to admit that I was somewhat uncertain about what to expect during the conference.*

*Having landed at Geneva airport we travelled by car to Montreux and into the mountains to the conference centre. What an awesome setting as I looked down on Lake Geneva and the mountains that surrounded Mountain House.*

*The next few days were to have an impact on me, which has strengthened my spirituality and commitment to work for ‘one race of people’...the Human Race.*

*Hope in the Cities has found a way of bringing people together which has no boundaries only challenges! The process of honest conversation is a key to inclusive dialogue, which starts with accepting personal responsibility to build and sustain, networks that bridge barriers of ethnicity, religion, class, culture and politics.*

*The influence of Caux will be measured by the renewed commitment that others and I have to make changes personally that will have real impact within Nottingham.*

*Since returning from Caux the group in Nottingham is moving forward with confidence and growing trust among those who shared the Caux experience this year.*

*We have had a dialogue in Nottingham, the first in a series of four to be organised in the St. Ann’s area of the inner city, which is having qualitative results. The*

*core group is developing a clear strategy for expanding as a catalyst for change within the community that we serve.*

*I personally am experiencing renewed vigour and a purpose in life which has no limitations, only exciting challenges to live, love and give for the benefit of the creator of life”.*

*Barrie Brazier*

## **SOUTH AFRICA VISIT**

During September-October 03 a group of six from the UK, spent four weeks in South Africa. Two of us had been to South Africa before, for the others it was their first visit to Africa. We were, Phoebe, Josephine and Tom Gill from Bristol, Bhavesh Patel from Manchester and Lawrence and Marlene Fearon from London.

We were met by Friends on arrival at Jo’burg airport and spent the afternoon in Pretoria before leaving for The Cape. We spent two weeks on organised visits to the Cederburg mountains, Gansbaai whale watching, De Hoop Nature Reserve, Stellenbosch wine farm and a visit to Roben Island, to share and reflect on the price of freedom and the remarkable commitment for change and justice – an extraordinary experience shared with our South African friends. Time together helped us understand the country and to discover the wonders and Great Spirit of South Africa. It was also a time of building relationships and self-discovery.

Finally we spent a few days in Madikwe camping at a Safari game reserve before three of the group left to return home, while three of us remained for a further two weeks.

During the remaining two weeks friends organised scheduled meetings and visits to Pretoria, Jo’burg, The Cape and neighbouring towns Witbank and Middleburg in the Province of Mpomalanga.

We heard of some of the encouraging initiatives of reconciliation and community building some were undertaking.

Fiona Martin a former mayor of Witbank told us about her commitment to building peace and reconciliation. She is actively involved in the Business Against Crime partnership and organises conferences on community tourism in Africa, which is helping to bring about change in perception and confidence.

In Middleburg Andre Brundmuller and his team of Rotarians in partnership with the local municipal and local mining companies have been successful in acquiring land and buildings to set up the Middleburg Care Village which will provide a home to care for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

In the Cape, we visited a township in Crossroads an insight into some of the challenges people faced on a day-to-day basis, living in shacks made out of cardboard and scrap iron was a deeply humbling experience. One ANC Councillor explained that he had no contact with his family for seven years, while he took part in the struggle and trained for his new role; now he is taking a strategic role in the Crossroads. that

Township, rebuilding houses, health clinics, childcare facilities and creating new job opportunities.

We went on had have a traditional Pap meal at Sam Pono’s sister’s home in crossroads. We visited Parliament as Guest Calvin Neluvhola. He is responsible for the smooth running of the parliamentary committees. Arrangements were made for us to meet with the Minister for Security and a Civil Servant. They talked about the challenges, which one described as, “trying to turn a huge tanker around”, an alternative economy has become a way of life, and the problem of crime and intra and internal conflict of the individual was of current concern. We exchanged views on how to build trust and encouraged honest conversation between all parties.

Visits to the Regina Mundi Catholic Church in Seweto, were many meetings were held during the struggle. And the Hector Peterson Museum, which charts the events before during and after the students uprising, in 1976 was a stark reminder of the many sacrifices made in the struggle to transform this beautiful Country. The experiences through out our stay were heightened by the awesome nature of the land and the depth in spirit of the African people.

South Africa enriched our spirits and deepened our commitment to build bridges of trust and to inspire others to fulfil their deepest calling.

A Special thanks to the South Africa Initiative of Change team, families and friends for their kind hospitality. In the words of the XHOSA tribe, “ENKOSI” Thank the Lord for Gratitude!

*Lawrence Fearon*

## **HIC CALENDAR 2003-2004**

30 Oct- 4 Dec	Liverpool- Facilitation Training Sessions
21-22 Nov.	Nottingham Dialogue
23-25 Jan	Huddersfield- Facilitation Training
6-8 Feb.	HIC National Consultation, Liverpool
20-21 Feb	Nottingham Dialogue (to be confirmed)
2-4 Aug	Pre-Conference HiC Skills Training & Development
4-10 Aug	Human Security through Good Governance

**HiC is a programme of Initiatives of Change, which is an international network of people of diverse faiths and backgrounds, working for reconciliation and justice, beginning with change in their own lives.**

**Contact:** Hope in the Cities UK, 24 Greencoat Place, London SW 1P 1RD. **Tel:** 020 7798 6000.

**Email:** L.Fearon@London.IOFC.org.uk