

KEY HOUSE
106 HIGH STREET,
YIEWSLEY
MIDDLESEX UB7
7BQ
TEL; 01895 434728

Hillingdon Refugee Support Group

May 2008 - Issue 25



Our Mission Statement

To bring, hope, dignity, and empowerment to refugees and asylum seekers in Hillingdon. To work with all faith communities and with organisations with no religious affiliation in order to protect the interests and promote the rights of all asylum seekers and refugees, regardless of their beliefs, race, gender, sexual orientation or any other

Funding

We would like to take this opportunity to thank: The Big Lottery Reaching Communities Programme who awarded a grant over 3 years and this commenced in April 2008. This funding now heralds a new era for the project BHUMP Into Opportunity and enables us to broaden the range of structured learning activities that we are able to offer, and is also allowing us to administer to a larger number of these needful youth than would otherwise have

been possible. The Paul Hamlyn Foundation who supported us for 2 years from July 2005- 2007 with Salary costs for a full time worker. Without their funding, we would not have been able to implement our pilot befriending project BHUMP. Thank you to the London Borough of Hillingdon and Paradigm Housing. We are very grateful for their positive response for our request for help as the work we do is unique and not replicated by any other

organization in Hillingdon. Our aim is to respond to requests which will improve the quality of life of young unaccompanied asylum seekers and refugees in Hillingdon. We are also very grateful to The Trust for London who have given us funding in support of the project for two years, 2007-2009. Their main aim is to enable and empower the poor of London to tackle poverty and its root causes.

To All our Partners

The British Red Cross, London Borough of Hillingdon Social Services Asylum Team, Brunel University Skills for Society and the Tumbler YMCA - A big thank

you for the invaluable support over the past two years in working together as a partnership to implement the Pilot Befriending project BHUMP. We now look

forward to working together with the New project BHUMP into Opportunity.

New Staff Member

In March 2008 funding from the Big Lottery enabled HRSG to employ a part time Administrative Assistant, Erin Anderson. Erin is finding the work incredibly

challenging and rewarding and is really looking forward to contributing to the packed itinerary planned for the coming months.



Bhump Into Opportunity Corner

BHUMP (Befriending Hillingdon Unaccompanied Minors Project) is a befriending project created by the Hillingdon Refugee Support Group and working in partnership with British Red Cross, London

Borough of Hillingdon Social Services Asylum Team, Brunel University Skills for Society and the YMCA Tumbler Youth Project. The purpose of BHUMP is to address the needs of young unaccompanied asylum seekers in

Hillingdon whose lives have been affected by political violence and displacement and to aid them to overcome their difficulties and encourage their personal development their lives and hence aid their integration into society

At a Glance:

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Hillingdon Refugee Support Group is scheduled for Thursday 10th July from 15.00 to 17.30.

Venue is Key House (address above). All recipients of this newsletter are invited to attend.

RSVP:

Freda on 01895 434 728 or Freda@hrsg.org.uk

WANTED

Committee Members
 Are you interested in joining our group as a Committee Member? Would you like to help bring hope dignity and empowerment to asylum seekers in Hillingdon?

To find out more, contact:

Freda on 01895 434 728 or freda@hrsg.org.uk

Inside this issue:

- Salsa Spectacular 2
- Ukraine Mime 2
- PC Course 2
- Befriender speaks 3
- Design Evening 3
- Poems 4
- Future Events 4

A Fond Farwell to Tigest – March 2008

“Tigest was always so helpful and ready to listen...I will miss her”
Quote from one of the young people

In March 2008 we had to bid a sad goodbye to Tigest Tegiwe, a Refugee Community Support Worker for the YMCA Tumbler Youth Project who has over the past years dedicated so much of her time to BHUMP. We can with all honesty say that her professionalism and cheerful infectious smile will be sorely missed and we extend our sincere wishes to her for success in whatever she decides to undertake in the future.



Salsa Spectacular !!

Put on your dancing shoes and dance the night away !!!!

In April 2008, the volunteer befrienders put on their dancing shoes and transformed into instructors in the exotic Latino art of Salsa dancing. A truly fantastic time was had by all present as we gyrated, cha-cha-cha'd, rumba'd and mambo'd the evening away. A particular note of thanks to both Zuleyma and Carla. A repeat is surely on the cards !



BHUMP Computer Course—ECDL Essentials Module 1

During the past month a group of the young people have commenced a computer course at the Harlington Adult Education Centre, who have kindly provided us with the use of their dedicated state of the art facilities. The course is being conducted by a specialist computer trainer who has specific experience in conducting training to groups of young people. Initial comments have been extremely positive and in subsequent newsletters we shall provide further feedback.

YMCA UKRAINE Mime Artists/ Cultural Exchange Workshop

On the 8th April, following successful performances and workshops at the National Assembly of English YMCAs, mime artists from the Ukraine YMCA performed for the young people who attend BHUMP and held a mime art workshop as part of a cultural evening. Everyone was actively involved and thoroughly enjoyed themselves and there were many positive outcomes of this night of art, culture, food, and fun. The evening was introduced with a

presentation from one young person who spoke of the love of his own country Rwanda and his wish to promote peace through music, poetry, and art. To celebrate the different cultures, there was food from around the world. Fried Plantains and Jollof rice from Nigeria, Cassava from East Africa, Sandwiches and scones from Britain and American apple pie.



Destination Design

One night in April the young people were once again given the opportunity to create their own t-shirt designs, always a firm favourite! In keeping with previous such evenings some wonderful designs were produced and the opportunity for unbridled self expression was embraced with earnest.



“Art and creating designs has helped me to be more relaxed and calm..”

Definitions – A Reminder

All too often we can forget the meaning behind the words, here is a timely reminder.

Asylum Seeker

This is the definition from the 1951 Convention:

"A person having a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

Immigrant

Someone who leaves their home country and goes to another country to stay there permanently.

Refugee

The term 'refugee' is widely used to describe displaced people all over the world. In a legal context in the UK, a person is a refugee only when the Home Office has accepted their asylum claim. While a person is waiting for a decision on their claim, she/he is called an asylum seeker.

Definition from 1951 Convention

Volunteer BHUMP Befriender

Below one of the BHUMP volunteer befrienders details their personal experiences of assisting in the BHUMP project. This will be the first of a number of such articles, with all of the befrienders being asked to write about their personal experiences. It is noted with pleasure that it is not only the young people who benefit from BHUMP, The input and invaluable assistance of each and every one of the befrienders is instrumental in the project's continued smooth operation.

Ever since last December I have been volunteering continuously as a befriender for BHUMP. This has been and still is a rewarding opportunity in which people from various cultural backgrounds talk, play games and have fun together. I have so many nice memories from all the sessions that I attended. For example, the times we played charades and people were acting out various movies and short phrases. All the games of pool and football we did. Another great memory involves the two salsa classes I gave together with another befriender. It was a very nice

experience to see so many persons enthusiastic and interested in the classes, to see them dancing and having fun.

It is wonderful that the project has developed so much since the first time that I came. The sessions have evolved from primarily involving playing pool and games to including a wide variety of activities, such as drama, mime and dancing classes and cooking lessons. In the upcoming months various activities are planned. We intend to design a magazine and practice streetdancing so we can perform during the Refugee Week. It is great to be

part of this project and I am looking forward to the next sessions!

By: Carla Buil



“It is wonderful that the project has developed so much...”

Quote “Young people need models, not critics” (John Wooden—retired NBA Basketball coach and member of the Basketball Hall of Fame)

More Than Words

At BHUMP we use many media to help enable the young people to develop their own personal identity, sense of belonging and self worth. Arguably one of the finest mediums for this purpose is the written word. The poems/essay below are fine examples, and give a wonderful insight into the personal thoughts and feelings of the individuals who penned them.



From Pillar to Post

In this generation
 England feels the victim of immigration
 Believe me,
 I can tell when I see a racist person
 Their evil look is filled with intimidation
 This is not an exaggeration
 We [migrants] need no discrimination
 Our love
 Our dedication
 And
 Our passion
 Is to get some education
 And be able to think. Without a limitation
 Or segregation
 My findings and my realisation
 Is that we live in bad conditions
 By all means, integration
 Give us documentation
 I mean identifications
 We also need relocation and recognition
 With our good information
 We can make a positive impact, I mean contribution
 Personally,
 I'm improving my communication
 'Cos I have good intonation
 And that's to raise my nation
 Love, is my one and only motivation

By Jean AKA Young

A Beautiful Place called Ethiopia

It's our country which has it's own language, numbers and alphabets. It's unique because we have 13 months of sunshine!

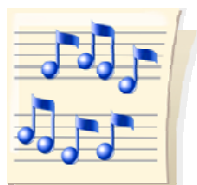
All Ethiopian people are very hospitable to all kinds of people and have a unique and beautiful skin colour and hair, apart from other African's country.

Having great historical places and amazing weather, it makes our country a heaven on earth!

By: Abigail, Meron, Hannah, Netsanet



Upcoming Events



Singing workshop with Paul Ayres, May 6th

Participate in singing games and vocal exercises. Learn new skills, meet new friends, build confidence whilst having lots of fun.

BHUMP Events Group

Join and meet with other talented young people Rehearse and then perform at Refugee Week, 16th-20th June 2008.

Are you into art? graphic design/urban art/photography/publishing/fashion/competitions/mixed media/ you choose.

You can develop your skills in art and learn new skills in using computers, digital cameras, design software, urban art as well as building confidence, making friends, giving your ideas and taking part in future projects.

Half Term day trip to Natural History Museum.
30th May

Residential Activity Week; 4th-8th August 2008.
Hindleap Warren Outdoor Education Centre

And Finally....

We want your feedback!!! Do you like the new format? Do you have any suggestions which you believe would improve the newsletter? Would you like the newsletter to be produced every month rather than the present quarterly circulation? Are there any news articles/issues which you would wish us to cover? Please let us know (contact Freda, details on page 1). We will seriously consider/listen to all feedback.