

SREC
SOMERSET RACIAL EQUALITY COUNCIL

 **North
Somerset**
COUNCIL

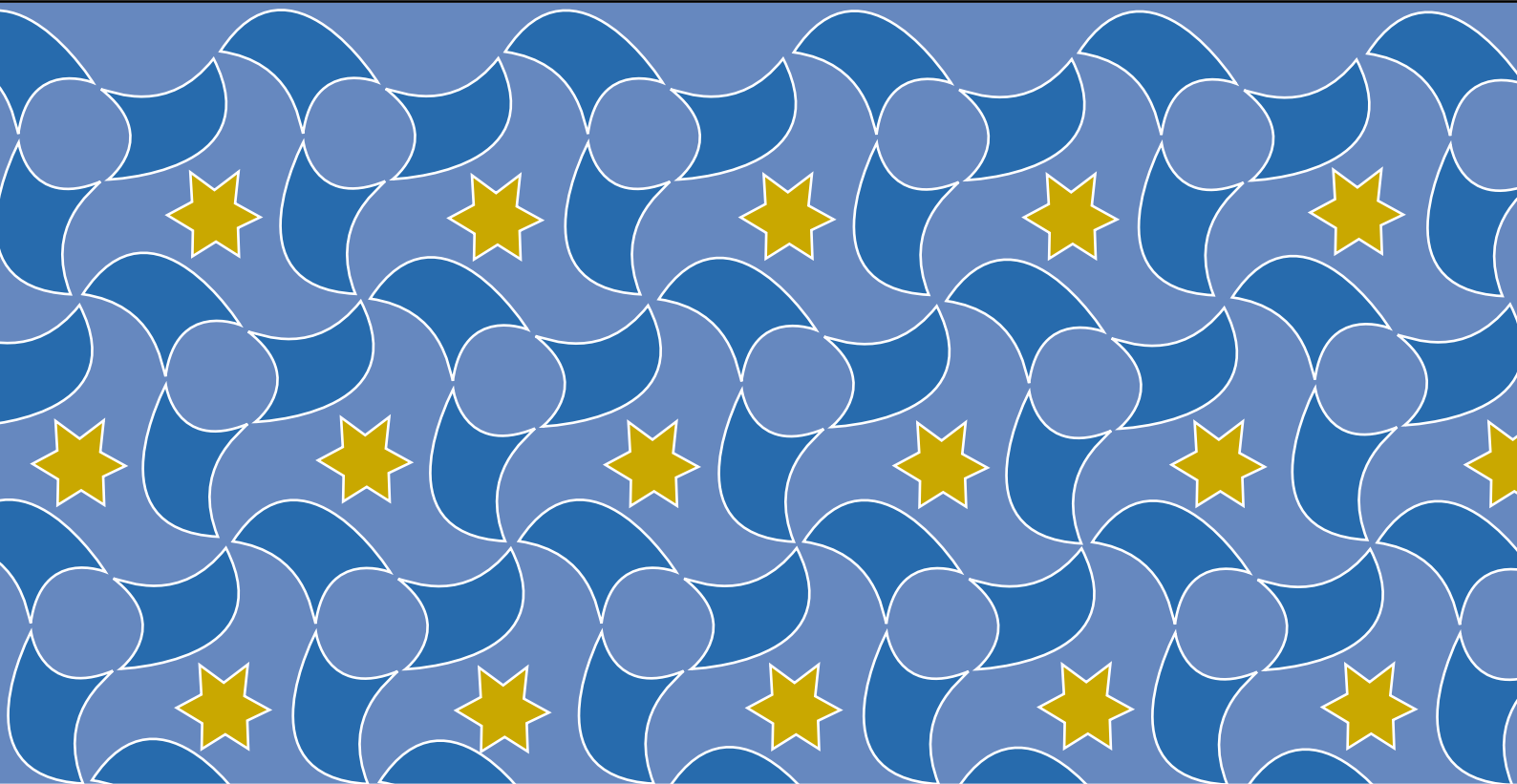
 **Environment
Agency**

MAY 2008

YOUR VOICE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC FORUM

NORTH SOMERSET



The environment is our shared heritage, and like all things precious we all have obligations to look after it. In that shared aspiration, we look forward to more engagement with all the communities of North Somerset in the coming year and beyond.

THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

WELCOME

A lot has been happening since our last newsletter in February.

Our bid for further funding from the Big Lottery was not successful unfortunately, and Lesley has now left to work for a local Community Association. She made a great contribution to the Forum project and we all wish her well in her new job.

The work of SREC and the Forum continues, however, and we can be found at the Badger Centre in Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare along with the Citizens Advice Bureau, Voluntary Action North Somerset and Quartet Community Foundation.

SREC in North Somerset provides a service to all people from ethnic minorities: as well as a free confidential service to anyone experiencing racial discrimination or victimisation. We also work specifically with the over-50's through the Partnerships for Older People Project (see below); we have a worker, Leah Edwards, who concentrates on issues for Gypsies and Travellers; and we support the work and the development of the North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Forum.



COMMUNITY RESEARCH PROJECT

The Community Learning Service at North Somerset Council works with local communities, statutory agencies, the voluntary sector and individuals to assess the need for learning within geographical and special interest communities, in order to ensure that the most disadvantaged have the opportunity to access learning activities.

The service is planning a series of community consultations to be conducted by volunteer Community Researchers. The first consultation – taking place in September 08 - will be to research the learning needs of people who do not have English as their first language, who are resident or working in specified areas within North Somerset.

CAN YOU HELP? VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS WANTED

English speaking and bi-lingual volunteers wanted to explore what local learning opportunities are available and the learning needs of people whose first language is not English

For more information please contact JP Evans, Learning Champion Development Worker, Community Learning Service, North Somerset Council.

Tel: **01275 884357**

or email julie.evans@n-somerset.gov.uk



FORUM EVENTS

The Forum had an interesting meeting at the Fire Station in Weston in March, with an informative talk on fire safety and an opportunity to see round the station and view the new hovercraft which will be available for sea/mud rescues and in the event of floods.

Our next meeting will be at the Badger Centre on Thursday 26th June at 6.30pm. It will be an opportunity to hear information from the Management Committee, from Miriam Robertson on the BME over-50s group and from Jay Akerele on his work for the Health Service. It is also an opportunity for people to get together, share some food and enjoy each other's company. Contributions of food are always welcome!

The Management Committee has been meeting regularly and has now opened a bank account. This will enable the Forum to apply for funding in its own right to put on events and develop its work to "represent the views and wishes of the minority ethnic communities in North Somerset, be a focal point for the BME voluntary sector; provide mutual support in the face of difficulties and prejudice, contribute to the planning and development of local services and enable BME groups and individuals to fully participate in the economic and social life of the area" as the constitution says.

The Forum would very much welcome affiliations from community groups and organisations which represent ethnic minorities or any groups which support the aims and constitution of the Forum. Contact us on bmeforum@srec.org.uk

POPP BME OVER 50'S GROUP

As a result of our work with the Partnership for Older People Project we now have a constituted group of BME Over 50's with some under 50 volunteers! The group is very active and meets weekly every Tuesday from 12 – 2pm. There is often a speaker from different organisations and services who brings information to the group. Also the group has been visiting some organisations to obtain information and participated in several consultations.

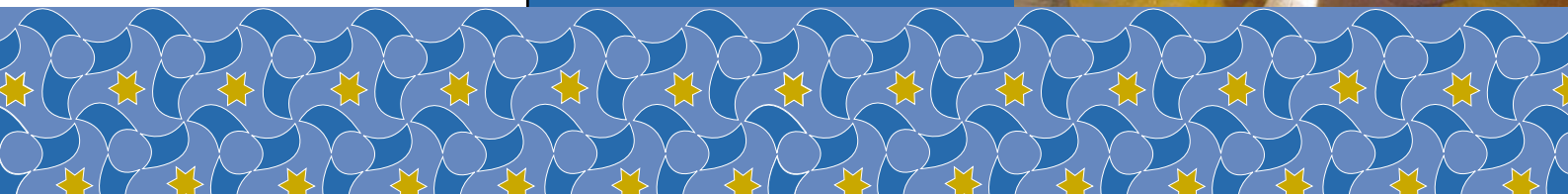
We will be meeting at the Fire Station Community Room on:
3, 17 and 24 June
1, 8 and 15 July

On 10 June we will meet at the Winter Gardens from 10am-4pm to attend the consultation/information event from Crossroads.

We also provide information on issues relevant to the over 50's. For more information about events, courses or information please phone Miriam on **01934 414455** or Mob **07894 586 752**.

We have social gatherings, dance classes, access to computer, citizenship and English courses and many more activities.

There is also a new group which has started in Nailsea which is planning to meet regularly on a Friday evening and engage in various activities. For more information contact Miriam.



A MESSAGE FROM JAY AKERELE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER WITH THE PRIMARY CARE TRUST

"Hello everyone. As part of my work I am conducting a Mapping exercise of all our NHS Mental Health organisations to see how they work with BME people in North Somerset that need their services. This includes our Community Mental Health Teams; Children & Adolescent Mental Health Teams; District Nursing Teams; Carers support Teams; Learning Disabilities and Drug and Alcohol Teams. Even schools and Colleges. I need to find out how many BME people they engage with as well as to find out if what they do is culturally sensitive to the needs of people.

If you have any concerns or suggestions about these Teams and others in Mental Health, please do not hesitate to contact me. We need them to be culturally capable to help BME people who are struggling to cope with any mental health needs they may have. If someone is in need of such services, or knows someone who is, he or she needs to have the confidence in the many Mental Health Teams in North Somerset to help. Jay can be contacted by email at Jay.Akerele@nsomerset-pct.nhs.uk or on 01275 546770 or 07527015828



Benefit Concert for

NORTH SOMERSET BLACK and MINORITY ETHNIC FORUM

at the BLAKEHAY THEATRE
Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare

Singing International Songs Of Peace, Justice and Human Rights

SATURDAY 21ST JUNE 3PM

(Doors open 2.30)

£3 incl. light refreshments

Tickets from rednoteschoir@yahoo.co.uk

or phone 01934 414455

**This concert will be
recorded for a live CD**

NEWSLETTER GROUP

Would you be interested in helping to produce the newsletter? It would be good if a small group could begin to work with us in deciding what to put in, chase up contacts, plan for future editions and perhaps look to getting some advertising. If you'd like to find out more about what would be involved please get in touch.

**Your contributions to future newsletters
would be very welcome.**

**Let us know what interests you, details
about future events, websites,
exciting recipes etc!**

