

SREC
SOMERSET RACIAL EQUALITY COUNCIL

 **North
Somerset**
COUNCIL

 **Environment
Agency**

OCTOBER 2008

YOUR VOICE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC FORUM

NORTH SOMERSET

You are invited to
The Black & Minority Ethnic
2nd Anniversary
Celebration and AGM

United Reformed Church Hall
Waterloo street,
22nd November 2008
12- 4 pm
Food Served from 12:30
Entertainment for all the family
Sponsored by SREC



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**

POPP BME OVER 50'S GROUP

The Over 50's Group is continuing meeting every Tuesday and will as from October be meeting at the back room of the Boulevard United Reform Church at the same time from 12-2pm. Usually members bring a bit of food to share while chatting and catching up with each other.

Speakers from different care, health and social agencies come to talk about their services which is always useful and interesting. Some recent talks include services like Warm Front from the Council, Safety Issues from Police Community Service Officers, Mental Health from PCT, Library services, Fire Services, Legal Advice Services etc.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Avon Fire and Rescue Services for so kindly hosting our lively meetings during the past few months. Their support has given us the opportunity to develop and establish our group at a time when we were much needing somewhere to meet. A very big thank you from all the BME Over 50's Group.

We are planning a few new activities for the near future and if you would like more information please phone Miriam on 01934 414455 or 07894586752. Up to now we have had a few outings: we visited the Create Centre in Bristol which was very interesting and enjoyable. Also, we recently had the Czech Band Model Bazaar playing at the Blakehay.

There is also a weekly meeting every Friday in Nailsea Methodist Church and Community Centre, except for the first Friday of the

month, from 8.00-9.30pm. We usually have dance classes and also some tasters of brush painting and some other craft activities.

We would like to thank Quartet Community Foundation for their support. We are also kindly supported by the Partnerships for Older People Projects (POPP) and by Somerset Racial Equality Council – SREC. Sessions are free at both venues and open to all.



We print below some contributions we have received about recent and forthcoming religious events and festivals. Firstly Ramadan, the Islamic holy month which started on 2nd September and ended 1st October this year..

Ramadan is the ninth lunar month in the Islamic Calendar. Muslims all over the world fast during this month, from the beginning of dawn to Sunset. They abstain from eating, drinking and sex. Ramadan is important for Muslims because it is believed to be the month in which the Holy Quran was



revealed by God to Prophet Mohammed and also it is a period of fasting, reflection, devotion, generosity and sacrifice.

Ramadan is a very special time for Muslims, but the feeling and lessons we experience should stay with us throughout the year. May Allah accept our fasting, forgive our sins and guide us

all to the straight path. With his forgiveness, mercy and peace and bring us all closer to him and to each other.

Do all Muslims have to fast during Ramadan? Certain people are exempt from taking part in the Ramadan fast: children, the sick, the elderly, people with learning disabilities and anyone who would be putting their health at serious risk by fasting.

Fatima Elazaar

.. and the Hindu, Jain and Sikh celebration of Diwali which falls on 28th October this year:

The very name of this festival 'Deepavali' suggests the meaning of this festival. It is all about the light coming out of a tiny diya that is called 'Deep' in Hindi. Later the term 'Deepawali' became 'Diwali'. Deepawali or Diwali is also known as 'the festival of lights' because on this day there is light and light everywhere. Diwali is celebrated usually in the month of October or November.

Diwali falls on the day of 'Amavasya' when the moon does not rise and there is darkness all around. Light, being symbol of hope and positive things, indicates the victory of good over evil. And by spreading light in every corner of our premises we try to destroy the reign of darkness on the night of diwali.



It is a tradition to light our homes and offices on diwali. People decorate their premises with diyas, electric bulbs series and other decorative electric items to make their surroundings filled with colorful light and to make it bright and beautiful. After all the ultimate beauty created by lighting all over is the main feature that makes this festival unique.

Shana

NEW HOPES FOR WESTON

Weston S Mare is one of the towns to raise the Olympic flag to mark that Britain has become the host for the next games in 2012. The Olympic hand-over flag was put up at Weston S Mare with the other chosen areas at the same time, and will be a feature at our local resort. On Sunday August the 24th 2008 many local people from Weston as well as holidaymakers gathered around to witness the happy event. With proud smiles and cheers people watched the flag with the emblem as it was raised at what was the local pier.

For them was a rare opportunity to witness and understand that we were one of the chosen towns to fly the flag. This was also an opportunity to publicise the pier and to encourage young Olympic athletes to come to the area. It was announced by the Grand pier owner that having the Olympic flag is a real sign of hope for the future of Weston S Mare and he said 'we are looking forward to rebuilding the Grand pier again'. We must also not forget what great welcome China gave to all the peoples of the world. We must take an interest in creating the same welcoming atmosphere and to promote sports for our future generation and to make it the happiest event ever to remember. **Concie.**



HURRICANES IN THE MEDIA

If I said to you hurricane Gustav! You will probably think of New Orleans, where this time the residents were evacuated to safety before this hurricane could strike the region. We all breath a collective sigh of relief, not to have another major hurricane desisted which threaten the good citizens of the USA. Now the next question is, Do hurricanes start and end their life cycle on the US mainland? Judging by the way the media has reported hurricanes in the past, you may well be justified in your view and thinking that only when Americans are affected by a hurricane it becomes news worthy.

In general, hurricanes originate in the Caribbean region of the Atlantic Ocean and migrate towards a large land mass such Mexico or the USA. The hurricane season of 2008 has seen an unprecedented number of hurricanes occurring with alarming regularity. The map below shows the predicted path of Hurricane Ike.

From 15:00hrs GMT, on Friday 5th to Wednesday 10th September.

Over the past few weeks we have seen four major weather storms sweeping through the Caribbean region, leaving a wake of death and destruction in their path. First there was Tropical Storm Fay, followed by Hurricane Gustav, Tropical Storm Hanna and Hurricane Ike.

The Caribbean nation of Haiti has been severely hit by all four destructive weather events.

There are varying estimates as to the number of lives that has been lost and the destruction caused to property, infrastructure systems and livestock. However there is general agreement that Haiti is currently facing a major catastrophe! The media needs to report more widely on these types of events when they occur outside of the USA, and change the popular view that it is only what happens in America that is worth reporting about.

Country profile: Haiti

Haiti promised much as the world's first black-led republic and the first Caribbean state to achieve independence.

Full name: Republic of Haiti

Population: 9.6 million (UN, 2007)

Capital: Port-au-Prince

Area: 27,750 sq km

Major languages: Creole, French

Major religion: Christianity

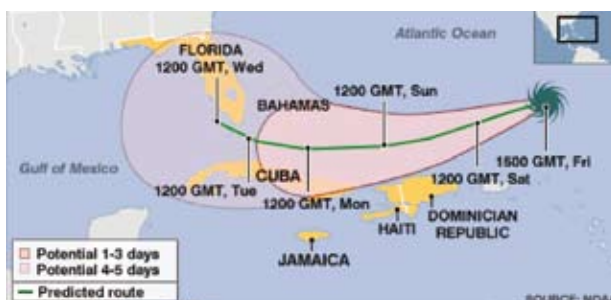
Life expectancy: 59 years (men), 63 years (women) (UN)

Main exports: Light manufactures, coffee, oils, mangoes

GNI per capita: US \$480 (World Bank, 2006)

Hundreds of thousands of people have been affected by hurricanes that have devastated islands across the Caribbean.

Parts of Haiti remain submerged under water and hundreds of people have died. The floods have swept away the homes, crops and cattle of hundreds of thousands of people. Lives remain at risk from flooding and mud slides.



Saturday 15

November

7:30 pm for 8 pm start, Royal Hotel, South Parade, Weston-Super-Mare

Standing Together presents

Not quite... Strictly Come Dancing!

• Take part in the dancing competition • Support the dancers • Enjoy the food • Have a (non-competitive) dance ...and just have lots of fun!

Tickets £18 (includes luxury buffet)

Teams and Companies are invited to sponsor a couple for £50. For a ticket or more details contact **Louise Branch** louise.branch@n-somerset.gov.uk 01275 888355 or **Kt Koo Katherine.roces-Koo@n-somerset.gov.uk** 01275 888359 Lessons available beforehand if needed!

Standing Together is a new enthusiastic local group which aims to redress an injustice faced by victims of domestic abuse. People who have entered the UK on a spousal visa with insecure immigration status have no recourse to public funds, including housing benefit and Income Support. Although



this may seem justified it means that people subject to domestic violence become effectively trapped in the relationship.

The government introduced a domestic violence concession but this does not work in practice because victims cannot access funds for alternative housing or income whilst their application is being considered and this application may take some months.

The Standing Together group formed in November 2007 in order to help redress this national problem for people living in North Somerset. The group's objectives are: To fundraise in-order to support people with no recourse to public funds who are at risk of domestic abuse in North Somerset; To promote good practice in agencies responses to those in this situation; To raise local awareness of this issue and the plight of those in this position

November 2008

12 - 4 pm Food Served from 12:30

You are invited to The Black & Minority Ethnic Forum 2nd Anniversary Celebration and AGM United Reformed Church Hall, Waterloo Street Weston-super-Mare Saturday 22nd with a feast of food, music and entertainment for all the family for all the family. Supported by SREC.

Friday 24th October

7.30pm, Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare.

Purple Jigsaw Show

A family evening of music, entertainment and fun.

Tickets are **£6** each or buy a family ticket for **£20** (for 2 adults and 2 children under the age of 16).

For more information ring **Quita** on **01934 844353** or see www.playforum.org.uk

This is a Play Forum benefit event raising funds so that there can continue to be free entertainment for children and families next year.

Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th February 2009

Race equality and cultural capability training (mental health)

This course is aimed at: Opinion formers, champions and leaders working in Mental and/or Public Health. Open to people from Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities, Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership and voluntary sector organisations.

Description: RECC Training has been developed by Ferns Associates on behalf of the National Institute of Mental Health in England to support the Delivering Race Equality in Mental Healthcare Agenda. Over four days participants will be encouraged to think differently about culture, race and inequality in mental health services and be introduced to ideas on a holistic approach to Black and Minority Ethnic mental health and implications for practice and service delivery. The course is pitched at an academic level and requires a commitment to undertake a practice based work task between sessions.

Dates: Four days (Wednesdays Feb 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th) over four weeks including practice based work tasks in between. All 4 dates need to be attended. **Time:** 09.30-16.30

Venue: New Brunswick United Reformed Church, Wigton Crescent, Southmead, Bristol, BS10 6DY

To book a place please EMAIL the training team by 31st October 2008 at educationandtraining@bristolpct.nhs.uk with ALL of the details below:

Your name & Job title, Your organisation's Name & work base address, Your Managers' name, Your contact telephone number, your email address and the full name of the course.

