

RECage



Autumn 2003

Issue 1

Newsletter of Northamptonshire Racial Equality Council



Race Action Northampton launches its "Pledge Against Racism"



Kettering Launch of Northamptonshire REC

Northamptonshire REC is now up and running!

NREC has now been constituted since April, and Wellingborough REC formally agreed to "wind-up" into the new organisation in June. All assets and liabilities belonging to WDREC have now been transferred.

The REC now has offices in Northampton and Kettering in addition to the head office in Wellingborough. The REC is also responsible for the Northamptonshire Black History project, which runs from the Doddridge centre in Northampton.

Although NREC is now up and running, its services are not truly countywide at present. NREC's **casework services** are: Complainant Aid (Northampton, Kettering, East Northants and Wellingborough), Immigration & Nationality advice (Kettering, Wellingborough & East Northants and racist incident work (Kettering, Wellingborough & East Northants).

Other services, such as training & consultancy are available countywide, and work has been undertaken in Daventry and Corby over recent months.

Northamptonshire Racial Equality Council

E-mail: info@northamptonshirerec.org.uk

Web-site: www.northamptonshirerec.org.uk

Wellingborough

Tel: 01933 278000

Fax: 01933 272409

Northampton

Tel: 01604-603868

Kettering

Tel: 01536 534230

A Registered Charity No: 1097767

A Company Limited by Guarantee: 4734851



WHO 's WHO

The REC Staff Team

Wellingborough Office

Chief Executive: Paul Crofts

Racial Equality Officers;

Jenny Sebastian — Complainant Aid

Margaret Plowman

Immigration & Nationality and Racist Incidents

Kettering Office

Ron Sawford (2 days per week)

Complainant Aid, Immigration & nationality

Northampton Office

Jocelyn Williams — Complainant Aid

Black History Project

Carolyn Abel — Director

Julia Drake — Oral History)

Nikki Taylor — Archives

The Interim Board of Directors

Chair

Mike Matthews

Vice Chair

Dipana Patel

Treasurer

Evan Njolinjo

Directors

Waris Ali, Gilly Anglin-Jarrett, Cllr.
James Ashton (Northamptonshire County Council), Rayhana Bhamjee (KREP), Mervyn Felix (NREP), Cllr. Eileen Hales (Kettering Borough Council), Jaymini Kotecha, Cllr. Mrs. Gill Mercer (East Northamptonshire Council), Joe O ' Neill, Cllr. Bhupendra Patel (Wellingborough Borough Council), Cllr. Graham Sherwood, Ray Starkey,

Have you visited our web-Site Yet?

In the **Home** section, there are details of our vision, business plan, Articles and Memorandum of Association, policies and last annual report. There are also details of " who we are " and how to find us (with maps), as well as how people or organisations can join the REC. Our **Advice** section includes our standards of service, casework policy and details of our work on racial harassment at work. In the **Projects** section, there are details of our training and consultancy work (including a copy of our training brochure) as well as our youth against racism initiative. The **News** section includes details of local Race Equality Schemes, current activities, events and other local news . Finally, there are **Links** to other interesting and related web sites and articles in our **Black History** section.

To read many documents on the site, you will need **Adobe's Acrobat Reader**. This can be downloaded from the site by clicking on the logo. The site can be visited at www.northamptonshirerec.org.uk. **TRY IT AND SEE!**

REC Members

Can you send/receive e-mail?

Have you notified us of your e-mail address?

If you have not sent us details of your e-mail address contact the REC office on 01933-278000, or send an e-mail to info@northamptonshirerec.org.uk

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in volunteering with the REC in any of our three offices — please contact Jenny Sebastian (telephone 01933-278000)

Saying “farewell ” and “thanks ” to Wellingborough REC



Wellingborough REC members enjoy a final “knees-up” to celebrate 30 years of fighting for racial justice and equality



The usual suspects plotting future activities: Anjona Roy, Wendi Garrett and Mike Prescod MBE

Wellingborough District Racial Equality celebrated its 30th anniversary at a party in June, following its AGM—which formally voted to wind-up in the new Northamptonshire REC. A Souvenir brochure featuring the history of the REC over the previous 30 years is available on request, or can be found on the NREC web-site at: www.northamptonshirerec.org.uk

Northamptonshire REC — Questions and Answers?

Over recent months many people have asked questions about the new Northamptonshire REC. Two of these are reprinted below and we will try to answer them as best we can. It must be borne in mind, however, that NREC is a new organisation. Its current structure, work and ways of working will be different from before (but sometimes in ways we cannot predict at this time). Some questions do not have neat and unambiguous answers.

How does NREC differ from before?

In many respects there are few changes at this time in the work being undertaken. NREC is more about future potential. The work being done now is essential that which Wellingborough REC undertook, plus the recent re-establishment of some basic services in Kettering and Northampton. New work and responsibilities will only develop as new resources become available to undertake it. A commitment was given at the time of NREC's formation that work undertaken over many years in Wellingborough REC (for example) will not be diluted. New initiatives have, however been undertaken in respect of the formation of *Locality groups* in Northampton, Kettering and Wellingborough, within the overall structure of Northamptonshire REC. These are called *Race Action...* (Northampton/Wellingborough/Kettering). There is the potential to form similar groups in other parts of the County in the future.

What are Locality Groups and what is their function?

Locality groups (Race Action Wellingborough/Northampton/Kettering) serve two purposes: (1) to provide local forums for NREC members to debate **and take action** on local issues in the area in

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Black History Month October 2003

Presented by Wellingborough Black Arts Consortium

Programme of events (Please ring to confirm)

LAUNCH

Friday 3rd October, 7.30pm, The Castle,

Tickets: £10.00/£7.00 concessions

Jalikunda

Senegalese Afro-Mandinka music

T&Latouche

Jamaican/UK Reggae

St Vincent & Grenadines Independence Dance

Saturday 4 October, 7.00pm - Late. WACA

Tickets: £7.00 in advance/ £8.00 on the door

All proceeds go to schools in St Vincent.

Contact Sonny: 01933 385567/ 0795 6044826

WACA Basketball Tournament

Saturday 11 October, 11am - 4pm,

Weavers Sports Centre

Ages 11-19. £3.00 per person.

Contact: Collin 07796362341 or Stephen 07779577239

Afrikan-Caribbean Workshop

Featuring WOLDE SELASSIE

Friday 17 October, 2.00pm. Wellingborough Library, £3.00

Limited Spaces - Booking Essential

An Introduction to Rastafarianism

Discussion with WOLDE SELASSIE

Friday 17 October, 7.30pm, Victoria Centre.

Tickets: £2.00

Poetry Reading

Robert McKenzie

Thursday 30 October, 7.00pm, WACA, Free event

Patience Agbabi & Batanai Marimba

Friday 31 October, 8.00pm, The Castle

Poetry and showcase of Southern African music

Tickets: £10.00/£7.00 Concessions

FINALE SHOWCASE

Saturday 1st November, 7.30pm, The Castle

Free event! Booking Essential!

Featuring Local Black Artists, Community Choir, Schools, MCs &

MORE!!

Venue/Information contacts:

The Castle 01933 270007

WACA 01933 222095

Library 01933 225365

Victoria Centre

01933 277400

Black Consortium 01933 275543

NREC General Meeting and Launch

Tuesday November 18th
7.30 (buffet food from 6.30)

The Guildhall
Northampton

All REC Members and friends welcome

Questions & Answers continued from page 3

which they live and (2) to provide a structure within NREC that ensures members can play a full role in influencing and informing the work of NREC as a whole. Locality groups will be represented on the NREC Board of Directors. However, it is not the role of locality groups to oversee or supervise the day-to-day work of employees of the REC, although REC staff will support the work of locality groups with administration and servicing of meetings. It is the role of the REC Chief Executive to supervise the work of employees in carrying out the agreed work programme of NREC, as agreed by the Board of Directors. So long as locality groups work within the general policy framework of the REC they can undertake any activities that they wish to advance the aims and objectives of NREC. Each year they will normally be allocated a budget (currently £1000 each) to support their work.

If you have further questions that you would like us to try and answer please send them to: Paul Crofts, NREC, Victoria Centre, Palk Road, Wellingborough NN8 1HT or e-mail pcrofts@northamptonshirerec.org.uk

Join NREC NOW! Membership is currently free for 2003/4