

## Wavertree Edge Hill Learning Centre (WELC)

Wavertree Edge Hill Learning Centre, most commonly known as WELC has become a necessary educational resource within the Toxteth, Edge Hill, Wavertree and Kensington area. WELC received funding from the Merseyside Expanding Horizons Social Capital Fund at the start of 2006, and is now an established base for learning and training, targeting the most disadvantaged children and adults within the community.

Rosina Ndukwe, Communications and Events Officer for MEH visited WELC to speak to Catherine Odita, Director and Project Co-ordinator of WELC and Gloria Hill-Andre about WELC's current projects.

Based inside St Dunstan's Church on Earle Road in Edge Hill, WELC is managed by a small team, Catherine, Gloria and just 2 volunteers but their vision is anything but small. Since its inception in April 2005, WELC has reached out to socially excluded groups including ethnic minorities, refugee and asylum seekers and the unemployed and has made strong links with key voluntary and community organisations and funders across Merseyside.

Catherine says, "We realised that there was a need in the area for a centre that caters for the educational needs of the community".

WELC focuses on offering structured qualifications around IT, back-to-work skills, arts and crafts and alternative therapies. Importantly, the courses are flexible, tailored around their client's personal needs.

There is also a job search facility every Friday at the centre allowing their clients to search for jobs via the internet. WELC staff and volunteers give help and guidance and sign post their clients to the required agencies.

Open throughout the week - including the occasional weekend sessions to provide these services, WELC houses PC's with Internet access, and this facility is free for members to use.

Gloria says, "WELC is a centre for our clients to come, learn and progress, gain qualifications and search for jobs in a relaxing and supportive atmosphere".

WELC is registered with Oxford, Cambridge & RSA (OCR), British Computer Society, National Open College Northwest (NOCN) and has been awarded an Open College of the North West (OCNW) - entry level diploma.

Funding from Local Network Fund enabled Catherine and her team to hold IT and arts and craft workshops running from January 2006 - April 2006 for ages 6 years -16 years. The funding from Local Network Fund helps towards the rental costs, materials cost and cost for tutors. The workshops were a great success.



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With the money received from Local Network Fund, WELC were also able to buy 2 allotments in Sefton Park and Wavertree so that the children they work with would have the opportunity to grow their own food. The benefits of this would be to promote awareness around healthy eating and nutrition amongst children and young adults.

WELC recognised that there were no activities in the L7 area for children and are currently working with Merseyside Play Action Council (MPAC) to combat this by facilitating 1-day-a-week courses that will provide the children with activities to do after school hours.

Whenever possible, WELC plan outings for their members. So far,

WELC has organised outings for their members including a trip to Wirral Country Park and educational trips to museums across Liverpool.

WELC has formed a strong partnership with Liverpool CVS and this partnership holds workshops for adults specialising in alternative therapies such as "Reiki Healing" and offering advice on relaxation methods such as "Indian head massages". The course promotes hands-on learning as pupils are encouraged to try out the methods themselves. WELC hope to carry out the same course but on an outreach basis and are currently looking for funding to support this.

Catherine says, "We are extremely positive about the future. Our main goals are to build on the projects we are currently involved in and to keep servicing our community. We are looking at developing other new projects as a response to the needs of our members. WELC is continually growing to meet the demands of our clients so we aim to secure larger premises and more resources to be able to offer more support services."

For more information on WELC please contact Catherine Odita or Gloria Hill-Andre on telephone: 0151 733 6336 or email: [cathwelc@merseymail.com](mailto:cathwelc@merseymail.com)

## Office Space Available at Comtechsa

Are you a small community, voluntary or charitable organisation looking for accessible office space in Liverpool City Centre? If so, call Comtechsa on 0151 707 4300 or email: [john.wood@comtechsa.org](mailto:john.wood@comtechsa.org)



Merseyside Expanding Horizons

# Network News

November 2006

## Social Enterprise Day

Social Enterprise Day will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006

Large or small, every enterprise with a social and/or environmental purpose deserves recognition and Social Enterprise Day will celebrate the ventures of these socially conscious organisations.

Social Enterprise Day is part of Enterprise Week 2006, an annual UK-wide week of activities taking place from Monday 13 to Sunday 19 November to inspire and inform people about enterprise.

Merseyside Social Enterprise Initiative (MSEI) is delivering a series of free one day workshops in partnership with Blue Orchid Management Consultants and Weston Spirit Trading Ltd aimed at informing and supporting groups wishing to set up as social enterprises (along with recently established ones).

Coinciding with Enterprise Week 2006 and Social Enterprise Day, these workshops will take place throughout November held at Blue Orchid Management Consultants Ltd offices in Liverpool City Centre.

For more information on these workshops contact Gary Ellis, MSEI Programme and Finance Officer on tel: 0151-330-0552 or email: [garyellis@expandinghorizons.co.uk](mailto:garyellis@expandinghorizons.co.uk)

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## MEH Says Farewell to Robert Brewis

The committee and staff at MEH would like to say a big farewell to Robert Brewis. Rob leaves his role as Project Support Worker to become a Ministry Trainee. Rob will be on a one year placement with a Church of England, church in Chadderton, Oldham. This will hopefully lead on to a three to four year Masters course in Theology at Oakhill Theological College, North London.

Rob has been part of the MEH team since July 2005. He will be greatly missed by the team.

We wish him the very best of luck for the future.



Robert Brewis

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## 2nd Annual Be Inspired Event is a Major Success!

The 2nd annual 'Be Inspired 2006' was held on 3rd October 2006 at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Liverpool. Jointly organised by Merseyside Expanding Horizons (MEH) and Merseyside Disability Federation (MDF), Be Inspired 2006 was set on highlighting positive aspects of inclusion and explored what people have done to overcome adversity, how people have overcome barriers and how the impact of a tragedy or setback in their lives has produced positive outcomes.

The unique event brought together renowned inspirational speakers aimed at addressing black and racial minority issues, education, business and enterprise, and breaking down barriers and perceptions of disability.

Hosted by Tim Dugdill, Chair of Knowsley Economic Forum, the event saw over 250 people from across the region congregate to listen to presentations by Doreen Lawrence OBE, Director of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, Paul Whittaker, Founder of Music and the Deaf (MATD), Liz Jackson, Founder and Managing Director of Great Guns Marketing and Gee and Dominique Walker, Founders of the Anthony Walker Foundation (AWF). These speakers have created positive projects and endeavours from the adversity in their lives and each person had a truly moving and inspirational message to share with the audience.



Performance Studios with Doreen Lawrence

**Doreen Lawrence** was awarded the OBE for services to community relations in 2003, almost 10 years after the murder of her son Stephen in 1993.

Doreen and Neville Lawrence fought a long and arduous campaign to get justice for their son Stephen and to expose the failings of the Metropolitan Police and in investigating his murder and justice system. That campaign culminated in the MacPherson inquiry into Stephen's death which fundamentally changed the nature of race relations in Britain forever, resulting in the Race Relations Act Amendment 2000.

After Stephen's death, Doreen set up the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust launched in 1998 and has worked tirelessly to achieve the Trust's vision of tackling under-achievement and empowering Black and minority ethnic young people through education.



Speaker: Paul Whittaker

**Paul Whittaker** founded Music and the Deaf (MATD) in 1988. MATD is a unique national charity, which has opened up the enjoyment of all forms of music and the performing arts to the hearing-impaired community. Paul who is profoundly Deaf is an Oxford Graduate in Music and Associate of the Royal College of Organists and the London College of Music. Paul is a crusader for music education in schools and is a pioneer of signed theatrical performances.



Speaker: Liz Jackson

**Liz Jackson** launched Great Guns Marketing, an outbound business-to-business appointment making agency over six years ago with only £5,000 of investment. Today, Great Guns Marketing is turning over nearly £2 million and growing at a rate of forty percent per annum with eight branches across the UK. Her phenomenal

business growth is more remarkable given she is totally blind having lost her sight the year she started the business.



Speakers: Gee & Dominique Walker

**Gee Walker's** son Anthony Walker was murdered in 2005 at the age of 18. Gee Walker sought solace in her faith and professed forgiveness and dignity to the world at a time when many of us wouldn't. Gee and her daughter Dominique have now set up a charity in Anthony's honour. The Anthony Walker Foundation (AWF) was set up at the start of 2006 to help eliminate racial discrimination in the local community and create cultural harmony and awareness in young people by providing activities and access to resources to help overcome barriers.

There was also an exhibition display involving 16 organisations including Community Concepts Ltd, Reed in Partnership, Business Link, National Probation Service - Merseyside, Merseyside Objective One, Liverpool Hope University and many more present throughout the day offering free advice and information to delegates.



Be Inspired 2006 Exhibition

Rooftop Community Promotions – a local group providing a range of music tuition courses and workshops for disadvantaged groups in Liverpool gave a fun and enjoyable drum performance using African and Latin beats that wowed the audience.



Rooftop Community Promotions

The day ended on a high with a fantastic awards ceremony to honour grass-root voluntary and community groups across Merseyside in receipt of ESF Social Capital Grants through Merseyside Objective One Funding. The 'Merseyside Inspirational Awards 2006' honoured these groups for their outstanding work to address social inclusion and build social capital. The ceremony publicised and showcased achievements made by groups who have made a real impact in their community with a relatively small amount of funding.

MEH, MDF and Community Foundation for Merseyside (CFM) currently distribute the Social Capital grants and the partnership worked together to organise the award ceremony. The partnership invited nominations from organisations who were encouraged to nominate themselves and each other for the awards.

### Winners of the Inspirational awards are:

Merseyside Expanding Horizons Award: **Clean Slate** won for their dedication and commitment to the removal of barriers of people facing exclusion, for the environmental and social benefits of their project within the local community.

Merseyside Disability Federation Award: **NWDAF "Shoot to Thrill"** won for its positive approach to the removal of barriers to inclusion within the performing arts, and for its practical assistance towards helping Disabled and Deaf people into employment in this field.

Community Foundation for Merseyside Award: **Performance Studios** won for their commitment to provide a wider range of leisure, social and cultural activities for young people in a disadvantaged area and for the social benefits of their academy within the local community.



Paul Brown, Manager of Clean Slate, with Doreen Lawrence

Paul Brown from Clean Slate, Ruth Gould from NWDAF and Pauline Donovan and Tammy Brogan from Performance Studios each accepted their awards on stage from Doreen Lawrence OBE.



NWDAF with Doreen Lawrence

Congratulations to all the nominated groups, MEH Award: Adult Dyslexia Access, Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services and Wirral Bridges; MDF Award: West Kirby Hard of Hearing Group, Wirral Pathfinders and Women of MOWLL (Bite Back!); CFM award: Lauries Ltd, Rooftop Community Promotions and Federation of Disability, Sport, Art and Culture.

Be Inspired 2006 received great press coverage. The event was covered by Granada Reports, BBC Radio Merseyside - Tony Snell Show and BBC Radio News. The Liverpool Echo also ran a feature on the event the following day.

The feedback received from those that attended has been overwhelming. The evaluation forms recorded over 94% of those that attended rated the event as extremely inspiring, 89% found the event to be a good opportunity to network with members of other organisations and potential support groups and 67% thought the themes discussed, the suitability of the keynote speakers and the mix of speakers was 'spot on'.

### Comments include:

*"Speechless! Intriguing! Moving!"*

*"A fantastic insight into the music of the profoundly Deaf – what an inspiration!"*

*"A broad spectrum of inspirational people, a very humbling experience, very proud to be part of it."*

*"Be Inspired 2006 has lifted up my motivation. I'm ready to do more for my community."*

*"As a recent visitor to Liverpool I am impressed that positive steps are being taken by this event organizer to ensure that Liverpool continues to move forward politically, economically, socially in respect of being nominated Capital of Culture. Excellent event."*

*"I am overwhelmed by today's event and would hope for another in 2007"*

*"Feeling inspired, being inspired and sharing inspiration motivates a community to be inclusive. Today has energised me to continue with hope, thank you."*

*"We are very honoured and proud to have been part of such a fantastic event. Very inspirational."*

### Thank You...

Merseyside Expanding Horizons and Merseyside Disability Federation would like to thank our co-sponsors Big Lottery Fund, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA) and Sefton Equalities Partnership and all our exhibitors for their support towards Be Inspired 2006. Without their contribution, this event would not have been possible.

We also thank Community Foundation for Merseyside for their donation towards the Merseyside Inspirational Awards 2006 and The Mersey Partnership for sponsoring the Be Inspired 2006 official pens.

We would also like to thank Energywise Recycling Ltd for producing the glass awards and we would like to thank Fortis Media for all their help to make Be Inspired 2006 a success.

And thanks to everyone else who supported Be Inspired 2006 and all those that attended Be Inspired 2006.

**Planning for Be Inspired 2007 will begin shortly. We aim for it to be even bigger and better than Be Inspired 2006! Watch this space!!!!**