



Easton Jubilee Trust
A Welcome for New Arrivals

Annual Report

2004/05

Registered Charity No. 1096962

Overview of the Year

This has been a year of steady progress, if less spectacular than the previous two years. In 2004-5, we consolidated our position as a leading community organisation in Easton and Lawrence Hill. We established the threefold structure of our Somali Education Project: a senior homework club, a GCSE science class and home tutoring. This project has become and remains our most visible activity. We have built up our partnerships with a number of other organisations and enjoyed working with groups who share many of our aims and values.

Contents

Overview of the Year

Introduction to Easton Jubilee Trust

Activities during the Year

- Somali Education Project:
 - Senior Somali Homework Club
 - Science Master Class
 - Home Tutoring
- English Classes and Creche
- Friendship Links
- A Meeting Place for the Community
- Wider Links

Financial Report

Trustees

Acknowledgements

Introduction to Easton Jubilee Trust

EJT is a charitable trust which was formed in early 2002 and achieved charity registration the following year. Our vision is to help new and recent arrivals in the Easton area to settle and thrive here. In particular, we aim to create friendships between British people and new arrivals and to provide assistance with education and a range of other needs. EJT is governed by Trustees, currently eight in number, whose names are listed at the end of this Report. The Trustees meet two or three times per year to review and direct the work of the Trust. Most of the Trust's work is done by volunteers. We employ a manager, a Somali link worker and several creche workers (all these staff being part-time employees). Our officially registered Objectives are as follows:

'Operating primarily in the Easton area:

- 1. To advance the education of children and young people (up to age 21).*
- 2. To preserve and protect the physical and mental health of refugees and their dependants.*
- 3. To advance the education and training of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers and their dependants in need, so as to advance them in life and assist in their rehabilitation within a new community.*
- 4. To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.*
- 5. The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances.'*

EJT is based at Muller Hall, Seymour Road, Easton, where we share an office with Kensington Baptist Church. Our officially registered address is 33, Chelsea Park, Easton, Bristol BS5 6AH. We can be contacted by telephone on 0117 9511202, by post to our registered address or by email via our website – www.ejt.org.uk.

Activities during the Year

Somali Education Project

Our central activity this year has been the developing educational work with Somali young people. Our primary homework club at Millpond School was closed at the end of the 2004 summer term as we did not have the resources at the time to continue it in that format. Our links with Millpond remain since one of our volunteers is also a governor at the school. We have now become more focused on secondary school students.

There are now three elements to this project: the senior Somali homework club, the new science 'master class' and the home tutoring. We saw considerable progress during 2004/05, a key part of this being due to the work of our Somali link worker Mohammed Ismail who was appointed in August with the aid of a grant from the Local Network Fund (administered by Greater Bristol Foundation). Mohammed works to maintain links with parents, including holding an occasional forum, and to ensure that they have confidence in the way the clubs are run. Funding for the project itself came from Neighbourhood Renewal (up to summer 2004) and GWR Kidz Fund. Much of the administration is done by Sylvia White, one of our key volunteers who is also a trustee.

Senior Somali Homework Club

Our homework club for Somali children meets weekly in the early evening at the Muller Hall. During the year we have begun to focus more on the years

approaching GCSE, in line with the emphasis both nationally and locally on measurable increases in academic attainment. The club is run by a team of committed volunteers who are able to help with a variety of academic subjects and, as with the other components of the project, we use the standard national curriculum materials of which we have built up a good supply.

Science Master Class

The science class was a new initiative beginning in January, 2005. The idea is to cover as much as possible of the GCSE double science syllabus in a systematic way. A group of 10 to 12 Somali Year 11 students have been enthusiastically following this programme. As with the homework club students we will be monitoring their performance against the predicted grades from their schools. This class has been run by a staff of three: Mohammed, our link worker; and two volunteers, both of whom have teaching experience and one of whom has extensive experience of teaching overseas. We have been developing our contacts with mainstream schools. Our aim is to run these classes in as professional a way as possible.

Home Tutoring

Placing volunteers in local homes is a distinctive feature of our project and there is a great deal of demand for it, with a considerable waiting list. As with most activities in the Somali community, contact is largely by word of mouth and the extent of the demand shows that we are trusted and widely accepted in the community. Our volunteers mostly help children with academic work (up to GCSE level), but they are often also able to provide basic support and advice to families and have become friends.

Typically a visit is made once a week: most volunteers visit just one family. Introductions are made and initial visits supported by our experienced workers, who also make repeat visits to make sure that all is going well. By the end of the year we were visiting around 15 homes.

English Classes and Creche

We are well aware that a grasp of English is vital for new arrival communities to settle and thrive in the UK. We are happy to report that English classes for Somali women continued to run at Muller Hall throughout the year. Bristol Community Education held two classes per week and by the end of the year there were also classes run under the auspices of the Somali group 'Han-San' with plans for others to follow. In support of these our highly-regarded creche continued to operate, enabling mothers to be confident that their children were in safe hands while they studied.

Classes for Albanian women were discontinued after summer 2004, as the group's level of English had reached a point where it was felt they were ready to move on. It's good that we continue to have contact with members of this group in a variety of ways, including through classes held elsewhere, Refugee Women of Bristol and occasional meetings held at Muller Hall.

Friendship Links

EJT has always aimed at building relationships as much as providing services. We see the great value of friendships between members of the 'host community' and members of new

arrival communities and we also look for the breaking down of barriers between different communities. This is why we are so encouraged by the success of Refugee Women of Bristol, a group which crosses the cultural divides. We have continued to build one-to-one friendships where possible and in August 2004 we ran a very successful major day trip to Avon Valley Country Park, with two coach loads mostly of families from the Albanian and Somali communities. We have also been involved in the lives of new arrivals from Iran, some of whom have been asylum seekers.

Capacity Building

The aim of capacity building is to enable other community groups to achieve sustainability without the need of outside support. We do not specialise in this area, but we are able to share our experience and expertise as and when opportunities arise. We had further contacts with the Somali football team Sagal FC, assisting with fundraising and encouraging the group around the team to become self-sustaining. We continue to support the Somali group Global Hope Academy in a number of ways.

A Meeting Place for the Community

EJT is responsible for running the Muller Hall through the week and it is our aim to provide a welcome as well as a good service to everyone who uses our facilities. In addition to the English classes, we have welcomed many other people through the doors on Seymour Road. Regular users include Refugee Women of Bristol who hold their members' meetings as well as other events, large and small, at Muller Hall. We have gladly watched this group becoming better established and reaching more of the refugee communities as the year has progressed. The group's chair is a frequent visitor to Muller Hall as she is involved in some of the Somali community activities which take place there. Neighbourhood Renewal have held various meetings including training events. Occasionally we are able to host more unusual one-off events, such as an exhibition of photography by a group of asylum seekers – this being run by a student from the University of the West of England.

Two First Aid courses were run, each over several weeks, for groups drawn from the locality. Health visitors from the Charlotte Keel health centre continued to run the popular baby massage classes here throughout the year, until the Sure Start grant which supported it ran out and could not be renewed at Easter, 2005.

Another event that has been based here since September 2004 is the Monday morning drop-in centre run by advice workers for the Somali community. This is an initiative of Refugee Support Project and reflects the ideal location of the Muller Hall at the geographical centre of Bristol's Somali community, as well as the fact that it is well known by the community as a familiar venue. On a more informal basis we ourselves offer advice as and when we are able: such advice usually consists of help with filling in forms, signposting to other agencies or guidance in finding the right English language class.

Wider Links

During the year we have continued to play an active role in the local voluntary and community sector. In April, 2004 we hosted a major launch meeting for the Horn of Africa Forum, an umbrella group for Somali community activities. We have maintained active and regular links with Refugee Support Project and Global Hope Academy, along with looser connections with Refugee Action and various other groups.

In the summer of 2004 the local Somali Women's Group, which had been struggling for some time, finally closed down. It was disappointing to see the end of this group with which we had

had links since it started. The group had met at 206, Stapleton Road, premises which are owned by Kensington Baptist Church where we are based. Later in the year the lease was taken on by Ahmed Duale, one of our partners from Refugee Support Project, who has (since the end of 2004/05) opened a Somali restaurant there called 'The Union'. This will be a considerable asset to the community.

We have continued to be actively involved in the Children and Youth group of Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Renewal. It was our proposal (and the job description we provided), arising from the discussions during the previous year including the major workshop we had hosted at the end of 2003, which led to the appointment during this year of a Supplementary Schools Co-ordinator, tasked with raising the profile of local supplementary schools and homework clubs, enabling them to learn from each other and improve their access to funding. This appointment is particularly timely as there is now a clear trend towards supplementary schools focusing more directly on raising academic achievement and the benefits of being able to work together are becoming more obvious.

Not everything has been an unclouded success story, however! Our last report spoke of high expectations for the launch of a lunch club for older Somalis. While this project is still something we would like to pursue, as the benefits for the community would be tremendous, progress has been very slow. We believe funding from Social Services will be available and will cover most of the costs: however, the requirement that individual clients be nominated and assessed first has meant that we have still been unable to get the project under way. Moreover, several attempts to secure start-up funding during the year were unsuccessful.

We were also involved as members of a partnership which submitted a bid to advise on the provision of very sheltered housing for ethnic minorities in Bristol. However, the bid failed and so this project has not gone ahead. Obviously it is inevitable that not all our initiatives will succeed.

Financial Report

In 2004/05 the Trust commenced the year with balances totalling nearly £10,000 and carried forward some £6,900 to 05/06. The turnover for the year was of the order of £32,000 covering 12 different sources of funding. A summary of the accounts is included below.

Cash flow was again positive and spare monies were invested in the COIF Charities Deposit Fund at a competitive rate with £5000 on deposit at 31.3.05.

The trust is in a sound financial position with further grant funding already identified for 05/06.

**EASTON JUBILEE TRUST ACCOUNTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2005**

	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY				
Bal B / Fwd			(9,812)	
Gross Expenditure		31,705		
Gross Income		(28,854)		
Net Expenditure (Income)			2,851	
Bal C / Fwd			(6,961)	

BALANCE SHEET As at 31 March 2005		31.3.05	31.3.04
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Investments		5,000	6,000
Current Assets			
Debtors	4,272		1,555
Cash at Bank	71		2,556
		4,343	<u>4,111</u>
Creditors		(2,382)	(299)
Net Current Assets		<u>1,961</u>	<u>3,812</u>
Net Assets		6,961	9,812
Fund		<u>6,961</u>	<u>9,812</u>

Staffing

While so much of our work is done by volunteers, we could not function effectively without our paid staff. Currently our employed staff consists of our part-time Manager, Steve Wilmshurst, and several creche workers led by Faith Dyer. Other creche workers are called in on a casual basis when there is a need. During the year we appointed Mohammed Ismail as a part-time Somali link worker. Mohammed had previously helped us a great deal as a volunteer and his assistance has been instrumental in progressing our Somali Education Project. EJT operates its own PAYE payroll.

Trustees

Our current Trustees are as follows:

Andrew Paterson (Chair)
Phil Hodges (Treasurer)
Jason Taylor
Roy Anderson
Jon Foreman
Mobs Timi-Biu
Sylvia White
Lindsey Thomas

Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the many organisations and individuals who have made our work possible over the past year. Our volunteers are key to the success of our activities and we have many people who have worked long, hard and unpaid to enable us to get alongside and encourage individuals in the communities with whom we work.

We are very glad to acknowledge formally the following grant-making bodies:

Lloyds TSB Foundation
GWR Kidz Fund
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, Easton and Lawrence Hill
Allen Lane Foundation
Sure Start Easton
Community Champions Fund
Local Network Fund
Greater Bristol Foundation (Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest)