

A N N U A L R E P O R T

2003 - 2004

The African and Caribbean Voices Association



ACVA

Charity Registration no.1098295

L E A R N I N G I S F O R L I F E



Chairperson's Report

My first year as Chairperson for ACVA has been a total eye-opener but I have enjoyed it. I have been propelled into new and sometimes frightening situations where I have had to give talks and present the organisation. This is something I had not planned for or ever in my dreams thought I would do.

I have, however, found that I am skilled enough to cope with these new situations and have concluded that if I can cope then anyone of my age with similar experience can do just as well. And so I am proud to be the Chair of this organisation because I firmly believe in its aims and objectives. I believe it's never too late to learn that we can grow and develop no matter what age. I also believe that we retired pensioners and people age 50 and over, have a lot to offer, we just need a little guidance and we could make big changes.

We can make a difference and through the efforts of ACVA many of our clients have contributed to changing attitude amongst our membership. We have sparked enthusiasm for learning amongst pensioners in Birmingham and also in Manchester. It was great to see how eager the group from Manchester was to learn about African heritage at the British Museum. It was great to witness the eagerness with which our elders took part in Public Speaking and Presentation training in Hackney. I am so inspired by my experience that I look forward to another year of growth.

Chairperson, Myrtle Laing.

Project Manager's Report



ACVA has on the whole is making steady progress in terms of project work and development of the organisations membership base. We expanded our remit and have had the pleasure of working in Birmingham and in Manchester over the last nine months. Project Workers based in these two cities have worked hard to bring the ethos of ACVA to local African and Caribbean people.

We have also worked closely with volunteer-led organisations in Waltham Forest, Haringey, Hackney, Southwark, Lewisham and Lambeth delivering Public Speaking and Presentation training. We have found that these groups are providing a vital service but some are severely under-resourced. I found that we were in a prime position to provide the necessary partnership support some of them required.

We have had an 8% increase in membership this is mainly due to the increased work in Birmingham, Manchester, and South London.

We have always encouraged our members to speak out for themselves and to voice their needs and I am happy to see that they are now enthusiastic about joining Forums, working groups and presenting their ideas at consultation meetings.

We have finally completed our website; it has been fully functional for over 4 months now thanks to a small grant from the Neighbourhood Renewal Community chest. We are planning to update it once a month so that our national membership can view and post activities on it. We also received a small grant from London borough of Newham to create an Exhibition charting the life history of four of our members. This Exhibition will be on display at our Annual General Meeting and will be available for hire.

All in all it has been a consistently progressive year both in terms of the project work we have completed and this also in term of strengthening the internal infrastructure of the organisation.

I look forward a challenging year ahead.

Angela Brivett, Project Manager.

Project Worker's Report London



I have co-ordinated really interesting projects over the last twelve months such as the Local Network Fund Project. We were able to work with 4 after school clubs in Newham and produce a stunning A3 storybook filled with the children's stories and drawings.

I have also worked tirelessly with clubs, groups and organisations in 5 London boroughs on the Home Office Connecting Communities Public Speaking and Presentation project. We have run Public Speaking Taster Sessions with people of all cultures, Asian, Chinese, Africans and Caribbean's. It has been an interesting but mixed experience. I realise that many of the groups that cater for the over 50's do not have the staff members to cope with many outside demands. This project continues and I know it can only get better and better.

Maria Kamara
Project Worker - London

Project Worker's Report Manchester

I was surprised at the number of people that wanted to go on these museum trips. If I had booked another two coaches for each visit they would all have been filled.

Many of the over sixties who came on these trips were grateful that someone had remembered them. All have never been to any of the Museums we visited and the majority said that they would go back to at least three of these Museums.

We had over 200 people and all said they

enjoyed themselves

Mrs. L. Brivett
Project Worker - Manchester

Project Worker's Report **Birmingham**

It was a pleasure to have taken part in this programme. I had little or no experience of the Museum sector but I was willing to take time to learn. I was also willing to learn with another group of people and I must say that, "A Journey Through the Past" allowed me to do that.

I was able to make contact with several groups based in Birmingham and Wolverhampton. I found the help and support given by Josette Lynch priceless,

and the visit to the British Museum would not have been the same without referrals from her group as well as from other Birmingham based groups.

I believe this project has potential and so I am busy approaching grant-giving bodies in the hope that we can continue the good work ACVA has started.

Patricia St Johan

Project Worker – Birmingham

Project Worker's Report

Internet Training

The Scared Stiff Internet Training held over 2003 – 2004 attracted people of all ages but particularly African and Caribbean people age 60 – 70 years.

We had more women than men interested in learning how to use the computer even though I promoted the training sessions to both genders.

I understand that Wendy Black ran a borough – based training in Southwark which was also well attended by women.

I think this project has great potential and I think it is important that people learn how to use the computer.

Kinsi Omar

Computer and Internet Trainer



Josette Lynch -
Birmingham Group at the British Museum

Staff Members

Angela Brivett -

Project Manager

Maria Kamara -

Project Worker

Li Tang -

Finance Worker

Mrs L. Brivett -

Project Worker-Manchester

Ms.P.St John -

Project Worker-Birmingham

Volunteers

Franklyn Georges

Jean Crooke

Astrid Bijl

Funding Bodies

Esmee Fairbairn

Newham Local Network Fund

Award for All

Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest

Bridge House Trust

Heritage Lottery Fund

Comic Relief

Home Office Connecting Communities

Voluntary Action Manchester Grant.



ACVA's Management Committee and Staff

Treasurer's Report

We have taken on board a new auditor Michael Bell and Co because the Home Office grant has required more in-depth accounting reports. We have welcomed this grant because it endorses our aims and has enabled us to attract further sustainable income.

We are however not complacent and have successfully applied for grants from Comic Relief and again from the Heritage Lottery Fund. We now employ 4 part-time staff and it is our aim to attract enough grants to have full time development staff in place.

This year the accounts are more detailed and are available for the Annual General Meeting. The reports shows no significant change from last year with the exception of the grants mentioned above.