

CATFORD (TUC) CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED ANNUAL REPORT 1989 - 1990

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WHO'S WHO

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

TOM MELLISH (CHAIR)
VICTOR LAHAI TAYLOR (TREASURER)
TORQUIL MACRAE GIBSON (RESIGNED)
MIKE WELLER (RESIGNED)
MIG TURNER (MC AND SELMC)
TONY LINK (MC)
BRIAN HODGSON (MC AND LDAWSG)
PETER SMITH (MC)
WENDY CAMERON (MC AND WOMENS
PROJECT)
BARRY PATTERSON
CHRISTOPHER CARDALE
ISHMAEL PAMPILLE
ANDREA MORGAN
LOUISE DAGWELL
KAREN STEPHENS (EX-OFFICIO, LEWIS-
SHAM COUNCIL OFFICER)

WORKERS

CAROLINE COLES (LOCUM JOINT CO-
ORDINATOR)
ANNE -MARIE JOHNSON (POLL TAX
ADVICE WORKER)
JEANETTE MILES (ADMINISTRATOR)
KATE MILLSON (TRAINING AND DEVEL-
OPMENT)
ORISHE OLUGBO (JOINT CO-ORDINATOR)

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ANNUAL
REPORT ARE THOSE WHO HAVE MADE
USE OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY
THE CENTRE.

WENDY CAMERON
LINDA CHISLETT
ELIZABETH SWAIN
AL BARON
PAT UNDERHILL
SOUTH EAST LONDON MUSIC COLLEC-
TIVE

SUMMARY OF OUR AIMS

The Project is open to all people who are unwaged, unemployed, those in part-time work and/or on low incomes.

The objects of the Centre are to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare with the aim of improving the quality of life for people who are unwaged, unemployed and on low incomes.

The Centre aims to provide educational and recreational activities. To supply advice and guidance on training, available benefits and other issues of concern to our client group.

To raise funds for the said aims

AL BARON

The past 12 months have been a mixed bag for the CCU with the staff struggling against an inordinate number of adversities, not the least of which have been illnesses that have beset a couple of workers. Both are now, thankfully on the mend.

A most welcome recruit to CCU has been Caroline Coles who has been on her bike recently to raise funds for the Centre while old timer Kate Millson has staunchly continued to promote the rights of the unemployed and those on low incomes.

If the women who use the Centre often require help, it is a regrettable fact that many of the men who have used it and continue to use it need 'watching like hawks. In spite of increased security and vain appeals to a supposedly better nature, many individuals have continued to steal from the Centre. Fortunately the scale of theft has been a lot more restricted of late; no one has kicked down the door and physically removed a computer this year. We can only hope that the individuals responsible will weigh up the pros and cons and realise that continued use of the Centre is likely to be more important to them in the long run than the odd tenner they'll get for flogging a stolen item in the pub.

A less frequent but far more serious occurrence is that of violence against CCU staff. Fortunately there have been no actual assaults, but fairly recently two clients have raised their voices alarmingly and the situations were only diffused by prompt and firm action. The last time, Orishe was on the receiving end; the first time could have been a lot more serious, and involved a torrent of abuse being directed at the Centre's female staff and in the presence of an eight year old.

Eventually this person was persuaded to leave the premises, but if Caroline hadn't been so resolute, and if two men hadn't been present in the Centre at the time, the incident could have been a lot more serious. It goes without saying that anyone who assaults, threatens, intimidates or abuses any of the Centre's staff should be asked to leave immediately, banned thereafter and if necessary, the police should be called.

On a lighter note, the institution of a swear box might be a good idea.

Though the Centre does a lot of outreach work and caters both for regular and one-off projects, eg the music collective and the ambulance workers' dispute, there is a feeling that it could be utilised more fully, especially by claimants. It could be that the combination of its close proximity to the UB office and its name puts many potential users off by giving the impression that it is a branch of the UB section or of the DSS. Perhaps the Centre should hold an Open Day to make more people aware of its purpose ?

CAROLINE COLES

I was initially employed on a six month contract, however that was extended for a further six months so I've been at CCU for about a year now. As far as work is concerned I've had to plan in terms of two periods of six months so I have probably been dabbling in a bit of everything since I arrived! It's actually quite hard to think about future policies and strategies for the Centre when you may only have a short period to try and implement new ideas. However there are advantages in that I