



Peaceworks Quarterly Newsletter – Winter 2009/10

Our Winter newsletter comes to you from a very chilly South Coast currently in the grip of a cold snap! This is mailed with thanks to all our supporters who partner with us in finance, friendship, prayer and solidarity.

'Reconciliation Process' becomes 'Restoration Partnership'

Last September a gathering of key partners and leaders from EARP (Europe Africa Reconciliation Process) decided to move the focus of the movement more intentionally from reconciliation towards restoration. The aim will be to develop trade and business partnerships as vehicles for political and economic restitution, and to change the name of the movement from 'Europe Africa Reconciliation Process' to 'Europe Africa Restoration Partnership'. EARP is particularly seeking to campaign and network to help Europe develop its relationships with Africa on the issue of fair and equitable trade, recognising the potential that business has to restore human dignity.

With these aspirations in mind in December Chris Seaton (who currently chairs EARP) travelled to South Africa with Segun Johnson of Liberty Church, Tottenham to explore opportunities presenting themselves with the World Cup being held there this summer. **Please pray** for the right doors to open following the recent trip.



Community Conference brings peace to housing estate

A little-known aspect of our mediation service is the specialist work we do with groups in conflict. Called 'community conferencing', it brings together everyone in a community affected by a dispute. Trained facilitators help key members of the community to look at how the problem is affecting those involved and how to negotiate long-lasting solutions.

At the request of police, Peaceworks recently worked with a community on a housing estate in a Greater London Borough. Community tension had built up over time between a group of young people and residents over the young people's anti-social behaviour. Residents felt intimidated and distressed, and dispersal orders by the police had only served to prolong the conflict and leave the young people feeling unfairly treated.

After meeting with both groups separately, Peaceworks mediators brought the residents and young people together in a 'community conference'. Both groups were given equal voice and opportunity to explain their point of view, and to hear the other's point of view. The mediators enabled them to identify and problem-solve on the key issues underlying the conflict/dispute, and a formal agreement was drawn up and signed at celebration ceremony to which everyone from the community was invited.

Twelve months after we completed the community conference, local police have carried out a consultation to evaluate its impact. Their evidence shows a reduced number of police call outs, and a very high percentage of residents felt that the area had vastly improved, that peace had returned, and that understanding had been built between the young people and the residents. The police have been so impressed with the long-term results that they have submitted a report on the community conferencing process for an awards competition.



Schools work update

In September we welcomed two new members to our Schools team; Talitha Brewer and David Holness. Their appointment was timely – the autumn term was one of our busiest yet for the Peer Mediation in Schools Programme! In the one term we launched peer mediation schemes in thirteen schools, and delivered staff training in six schools.

2010 sees the launch of a new area of work with schools for Peaceworks. We will be working with schools at risk of going into special measures, to help them problem-solve and improve working relationships within the school community. Last term we worked with our first school through this new initiative with great success. **Please pray** for our schools team and our work, particularly as we develop new services and seek elusive funding.

New website now live!

Our long awaited redesign of the Peaceworks website is now complete. Please visit it and let us know what you think! We hope you like it as much as we do, and we are excited about new opportunities to use it to grow our work. www.peaceworks.org.uk

Arun Angels take flight

In time for Christmas and New Year revelries, the Arun Angels project was launched at the beginning of December at a special commissioning service. Twenty-seven volunteer 'angels' are now out on Bognor's streets each Saturday night providing practical help to those who are or have become vulnerable in the late night environment. Project Coordinator Derek Baker has done a sterling job in helping the project to launch so quickly. **Please pray for the volunteer angels** and for the people they will come into contact with on Saturday nights whilst out on patrol.



Courtesy of Bognor Regis Observer

Peaceworks Mediation Skills Training for 2010

We will run our popular Mediation Skills Training course in June and September/October. The June course is a 5-day residential in a beautiful country house setting in North Wales on the following dates:

14 – 18 June 2010

And in Bognor Regis as a three units delivered separately making it more flexible, on the following dates:

20 – 22 September 2010 (Foundation course)

30 September – 1 October (Intermediate course)

9 October (Advanced course)

These courses will follow two fully booked ones at the start of 2010. **Please pray for the right delegates** to come on the course.

Thanks for your continued support – this really is a team effort!

Chris Seaton for Peaceworks Staff & Trustees

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