



Aston-Mansfield

Generating community wealth for social change



Aston-Mansfield

In the community

Foreword



For well over 100 years, Aston-Mansfield has been a central part of the community in east London. This report tells

you of our work to support and empower the amazing range of people and organisations which make up the communities in this area. We are proud of what we do because it helps people improve their own lives and contributes significantly to the cohesiveness of the community.

We are grateful to all those who help us do this work, including staff, volunteers and our funders. There is increased interest at both local and national level in the importance of centres such as ours, which are often described as “Community Anchors”. We hope this increased interest from the statutory sector will mean that we will be able to continue and even expand our crucial work with the community into the future.

Ian Powell
Chief Executive

Chairman's Report



Our annual report reflects our core commitment to our community.

We review our programmes

regularly to ensure that we are serving local people in the most effective ways. Some projects have come to a natural end as provision became available elsewhere, whilst others were begun to augment the area's existing services. Our Strategic Plan has guided us thus far and identifies the activities which we believe we should undertake between now and 2010, either alone or in partnership with others, to enhance the lives of people in east London.

To support our objectives, we have increased our board with five new trustees, all of whom bring with them a wealth of experience in a number of fields and a great deal of local knowledge. We welcome them and thank all our trustees for the time and expertise which they give to Aston-Mansfield.

Chris Keen
Chair

Durning Hall – Forest Gate



Miss Theodora Durning-Lawrence laid the foundation stone for the third Durning Hall on 3 October 1957. From that point, Durning Hall became and remains a major focus for community life in Forest Gate, used by several generations of local people. People who began as Boy Scouts or Brownies are now, in retirement, active with the social clubs.



Durning Hall is also a first stop for newcomers to the area wanting to participate in local life or get information. Like all community centres, it serves people working on big issues and also the small day to day problems, such as the lady whose mobility vehicle ran out of power in the street. She was pushed into the centre by the local police and sat in our cafe whilst she charged her vehicle with our electricity.



Durning Hall is the largest of our sites and offers many rooms for hire. It also houses a number of independent agencies; a New Business Centre, offering offices to social enterprises; a hostel for homeless young people; and our Community Involvement Unit.

On an average week at Durning Hall, there are:



- between 90-100 activity sessions
- run by 54 community groups (including 26 faith groups)



- 11 tenant organisations using our building as a base for their work.



- 30 volunteers working in our shop and centre

Girassol Women's Organisation

Girassol Women's Organisation is based in Durning Hall.



"Girassol has received help and support from Aston-Mansfield since it first begun in 2004. We held our first AGM in the Durning Hall for free, because we had no funds, and since then we have received support in all areas of our organisation. Girassol has successfully run projects for the Portuguese community thanks to the valuable help and support from CIU which has helped us with our funding applications, funding news, management committee recruitment, and premises. We are now aspiring to a quality mark with PQASSO and making plans to reach out to people in other London boroughs. The CIU also supported us through their Next Steps programme, which has really helped Girassol to reorganise itself and put some policies and work procedures in place."

Alda Vieira

Froud Centre – Manor Park



Situated in Manor Park, the Froud Centre is a lively, modern, purpose built centre. A major part of its work is with marginalised and hard to reach young people through organised youth work. There are also targeted and general sports activities for all ages, after school clubs and holiday projects, adult education classes and courses in English as Another Language. The centre also houses a community office, which offers new groups shared access to space, computers and phones on a sessional basis.

The Froud Centre, like Durning Hall, is based in a multicultural area and supports diverse cultures as they work together, providing meeting spaces, access to networks and guidance.

Our centres are important hubs of the community, where people know they can come for support or just to ask a question about the area, like a 75 year old man who came in to find out if we knew of reading classes, as he thought it was time he learnt to read. With a few phone calls, we got him into a basic skills course.

On an average week at the Froud Centre, there are:



- between 70-80 activity sessions
- run by 53 community groups (including 8 faith groups)



- 11 voluntary organisations sharing our community office



- 200 young people using the after school and youth groups
- 20 volunteers working in the centre

African Future Development

African Future Development came to Aston-Mansfield in December 2005 with a programme which had been successful in Brixton. Within 18 months of working alongside us, they had secured funding; taken an office in the Froud Centre; registered as a charity; and taken on their first paid staff member.



“We are grateful to Aston-Mansfield for their regular support to the development and sustainability of our organisation. They are very responsive to our particular needs and supportive on a range of services from organisational development to networking including fundraising, training, office provision and recruitment. With their support and guidance, our organisation has been able to secure funding, expand and deliver its services effectively for the benefit of the disadvantaged African communities.”

Belvien Tankala
Volunteer Coordinator

Community Involvement Unit



The Aston-Mansfield Community Involvement Unit (CIU) is a team of specialists providing a comprehensive package of quality advice and information aimed at supporting and strengthening voluntary and community groups in east London.



We provide:

- advice on organisational and financial development.
- fundraising advice and support
- the 'Next Steps' and 'Improving Reach' programmes of intensive support for medium-sized community organisations.
- a comprehensive third sector library and resource centre.
- a community research service, providing tailored research projects or end-of-project evaluations.
- two shared Community Offices in the Froud Centre and the Harold Road Centre.



We collaborate with Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium and the Black & Ethnic Minority Community Care Forum in 'Newham Third Sector Funding', and are an active part of the Newham Compact.

The CIU:



- works with almost 300 groups a year plus a monthly mailing to over 600 groups per month



- holds 6 networking lunches and 30-40 workshops every year



- publishes the Newham Directory of Religious Groups, the Fundwatch and Info quarterly newsletters

Newham All Star Sports Academy

Newham All Star Sports Academy (NASSA) started in March 2005 with 2 young people shooting basketball in the park is now a successful sports academy.



"I have been involved with Aston-Mansfield for the last 2 years. Everybody I've met so far has been very helpful and supportive with the work that we do. I have had help with so many issues; completing funding applications and developing NASSA's project ideas. Almost every week I receive emails about funding, training or workshops which we attend and find very helpful (especially lunch and meeting other groups). On behalf of Newham All Star Sports Academy (NASSA) I would like to say thank you to Aston-Mansfield for their help and support, and hope we can work together in the future to make Newham a better place."

Natasha Hart
Project Director

Annual Conference 2006

Helping Third Sector Organisations to Grow



Almost 100 people, representing over 70 voluntary, community and faith groups gathered at Durning Hall for the first annual conference staged by Aston-Mansfield in October 2006.



Keynote speakers included Stephen Timms MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who spoke on *The impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review on future funding for the Third Sector*, and Punita Goodfellow, a senior civil servant from the Charity and Third Sector Finance Unit of HM Treasury. Ms Goodfellow was leading on the government's Review of the Third Sector and updated the conference on initial findings of the review. She also networked informally to gather additional information for the review.



Our own team of specialists delivered the specific workshops throughout the day alongside leading experts and consultants from Rocket Science; London Borough of Newham's Community Support Unit; Newham Local Network Fund Grants Panel; and the Bridge House Trust.



Key Speakers 2006



Punita Goodfellow, a senior civil servant from the Charity and Third Sector Finance Unit



Stephen Timms MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

The Muslim Mediation Service

The Muslim Mediation Service started as a project of Conflict and Change.



“The help, advice, training we received ranged from developing a stable business plan, having policies and procedures, knowing how to recruit and keep volunteers, the importance of CRB checks especially as we work with families, and how to apply for funding. We have received funding for the next two years. We were also able to produce a cash-flow forecast / budget and so much more, and as of October 2007 we have become financially independent and still maintain strong links with Conflict and Change. We also received help to set up our own bank accounts, register as a Company Limited by Guarantee and start the process of becoming a registered Charity. In all of this Aston Mansfield ‘Next Steps’ programme has helped immensely.”

Halima Arif

Annual Conference 2007

Valuing Partnerships with east London's Third Sector



Our second annual conference was under the theme of valuing partnerships with the voluntary, community and faith sectors in east London as there are new opportunities to improve and develop the relationship with local statutory bodies.



The Community Involvement Unit feels it is important to provide an opportunity for third sector staff, volunteers and management committee members to take a step back from simply reacting to the day-to-day pressures of running their organisations and to focus on the future. The conference therefore offered the chance for local groups to discuss ways of improving partnerships and to learn more about how this important area of work can be strengthened.



Tate & Lyle generously sponsored both conferences from their recognition of the valuable work that is undertaken by small groups throughout Newham. We offer our sincere thanks to Tate & Lyle for their support, without which the events would not have been possible.



Key Speakers 2007



Jeff Masters, Policy Manager within the government's Office of the third Sector (left), with Ian Powell, CEO of Aston-Mansfield



Richard Corden, Chief Executive of the Commission for the Compact



Tony McBrearty, Deputy Chief Executive of Thames Gateway London Partnership

Fundamental Architectural Inclusion

Fundamental Architectural Inclusion is an architecture and built environment education organisation based in Newham.



“Fundamental is a small not for profit organisation which is committed to ensuring that communities are meaningfully engaged in the process of regeneration. The Local Network Fund continues to be a very important source of income for us to devise and deliver innovative creative projects with young people. The planning consultation process does not reach out to young people, in particular, and it is therefore necessary for us as an organisation to create engagement opportunities ourselves. Aston-Mansfield recognises our uniqueness as an organisation and is very supportive of our work in this area.”

Jane Leighton

Key Information about Aston-Mansfield



In 2006 / 07, Aston-Mansfield:

Generated £2.5million income to be used on its' charitable activities, in its' three programme strands: Community Development; Healthy Living; and Lifelong Learning.



Added £2.6million to the local economy

Invested £860,000 of its' own money in community work (an average of £28 per person who used our services during the same period)



Invested almost £750,000 in its' buildings, to create welcoming environments for the local community

Administered the Local Network Fund, awarding £450,000 to local groups working with children and young people



Employed over 70people

Gave 50 people the opportunity to volunteer, enhancing their social, employment and leisure skills

Had approximately 30,000 visitors to its centres, making over 100,000 visits

Key Funders to Aston-Mansfield

We are extremely grateful to everyone who had provided invaluable financial support to us between 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 and has made our work possible.

Aston-Mansfield Charitable Trust
Awards for All

Barclays Capital

Bridge House Trust

Capacity Builders

City Parochial Foundation

Clifford Chance

Credit Suisse

Department for Children, Schools
and Families

Fauchier Partners

Learning and Skills Council

Legal and General

Lennox and Wyfold Foundation

London Borough of Newham

Mansfield College Student body

Oppenheimer Charitable Trust

Peggy Melville (in memoriam)

Rev Havergal Shaw

RiskSTOP

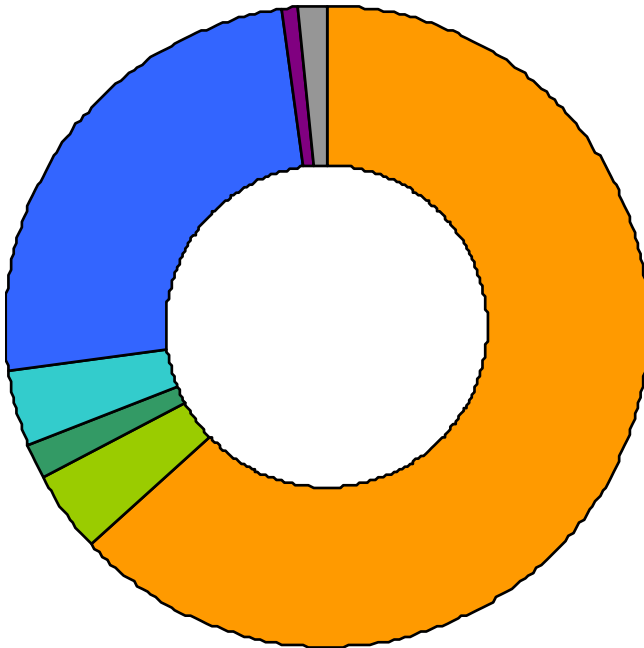
Tate & Lyle

The Tudor Trust



Financial Information

| Incoming Resources | £ |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Voluntary income | 1,950 |
| Grants | 1,506,304 |
| Fundraising | 97,077 |
| Shop Sales | 37,757 |
| Project Income | 98,934 |
| Rents and Facility Hire | 595,585 |
| Management and Consultancy Fees | 18,025 |
| Other Income | 33,684 |
| Total Income | 2,389,316 |



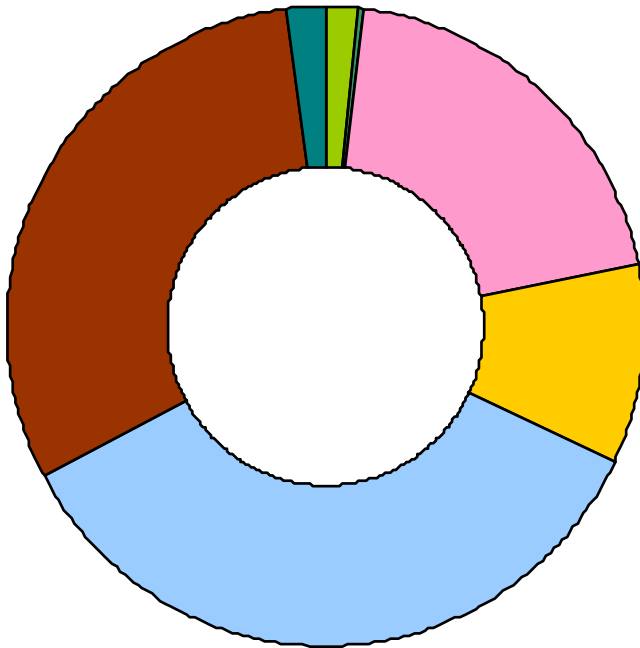
Resources Expended

£

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Fundraising | 39,528 |
| Shop Operating Costs | 7,459 |
| Lifelong Learning | 486,606 |
| Healthy Living | 237,773 |
| Community Developments | 858,981 |
| Community Buildings | 746,558 |
| Governance Costs | 46,533 |

Total Expenditure

2,423,438



Trustees appointed since May 2006



Ven
Michael
Fox

Ihona
Hirving-
Barnett



Rev Dr
Walter
Houston

Dharam
Lall



Harry
Singha

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Christopher Keen (Chairman)
Alan Shelley (Vice-Chairman)
Adewala Adeniji
Karen Blakeley
Catherine Brett
Ven Michael Fox
Ihona Hirving-Barnett
Rev Dr Walter Houston
Dharam Lall
Harry Singha
Bernard Tyler
Andrew West
Stephen Wright

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ian Powell

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Geoffrey Wheeler

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

Steve Berwick
John Connor
Caroline Rouse

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Designed by: Aston-Mansfield
Photographs:
David Davies
Deborah Henry-Pollard
Aston-Mansfield archives

The Annual Report is available in large print and can also be downloaded from our website.

www.aston-mansfield.org.uk

ASTON-MANSFIELD

Durning Hall
Earlham Grove
Forest Gate
London
E7 9AB

Tel: 020 8536 3800

Fax: 020 8555 0142

(Registered Office Address)

Froud Centre
1 Toronto Avenue
Manor Park
London
E12 5JF

Tel: 020 8478 2468

Fax: 020 8478 0806

Community Involvement Unit
Durning Hall
Earlham Grove
Forest Gate
London
E7 9AB

Tel: 020 8519 2244

Fax: 020 8534 4498

Email: info@aston-mansfield.org.uk
www.aston-mansfield.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 220085

© Aston-Mansfield 2007



Aston-Mansfield

Generating community wealth for social change