

COMMUNITY ORGANISERS

www.sneinton-alchemy.com



ABOVE: ORGANISERS AND VOLUNTEERS UNDERSTAND THEIR COMMUNITY THROUGH LISTENING

LEFT: PRETTIER WHITTIER STREET CLEAN SUPPORTED BY THE CO TEAM, POLICE AND LOCAL

It's all kicking off in Sneinton

People all over Sneinton are getting involved in improving their community. Listenings carried out by the Community Organisers are turning into actions by the people!

Sneinton Community Hub: Sneinton residents have set up a Saturday Hub which is seeking to offer much needed services to the community such as a form filling service, free PC and internet, international foods, games and fun activities.

Right up my Street: A Sneinton-wide street clean/pride programme. Coming to a street near you.

The VBA Group: This group has a far reaching remit to help youths directly or through signposting into employment, training and into positive activities with integration and cohesion at its core.

The Prettier Whittier Group: A group of residents have come together to get their streets clean and "prettier" by organising a series of street clean/pride events annually.

Sneinton EBIZ: Inspired by KIVO-EBIZ, which was started when one of the Trustees of an under-threat community building, Steph Hryschko, decided to clear out her garage and sell the contents on e-bay. KIVO-EBIZ raising £5000 in the first 6 weeks. In 2012 it brought in a staggering £75,000 selling the residents of Kiverton's unwanted goods.

Many of the newly forming community groups in Sneinton are considering selling unwanted goods via ebay as a way of becoming sustainable.

Contact: Steve on 07580451305 stevesmth100@gmail.com



WHITTIER ROAD RESIDENTS WORKING TOGETHER
photo kind permission Paul Boast

The Listening Post
on Saturdays 11-3pm
at the Hermitage Centre
Sneinton Boulevard
Free Tea and Coffee!



COMMUNITY ORGANISERS

 Sneinton Alchemy



THE LISTENING POST

ANDREW MCCARTNEY,
VOLUNTEER CO



I have been a resident in Sneinton now for the past five years. I love it here, blessed as I am to live in a wonderful house and among amazing people.

A CATALYST FOR IDEAS

During my time here I have been developing this as an idea which I call Catalyst so was very excited to be introduced to the Community Organisers process some weeks ago. As social beings, humans have a very deep need to interact and socialise with others.

Further to my listenings with Steve Smith and Dave Jones, it became apparent that there would be a great opportunity to develop a 'Community Hub' in Sneinton and to this end I have taken on the role of project leading the extent to which this could be achieved.

Whilst Nina, Emma and Roy are focused on getting this project off the ground at the Sneinton Hermitage on Saturdays between 11am and 4pm, I am carrying out further research into what additional needs could be fulfilled by this service. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further and can be contacted on 07864 114745 or catalystforideas@gmail.com.

DEE, VOLUNTEER CO



I live in Sneinton with my 16 year old son who seems (like lots of teenagers) to only wear clothes for a matter of hours before they need (??) to be washed.

A LAUNDERETTE IN SNEINTON WOULD "CLEAN UP"!

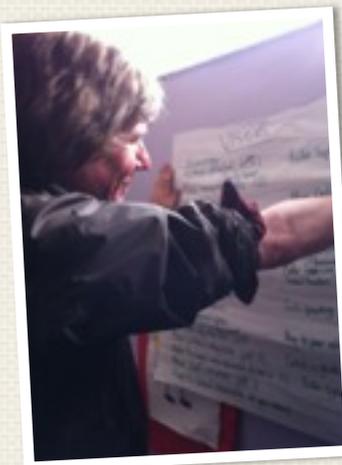
When my washing machine recently broke down I had to take my washing to my Mum's. I would really have appreciated being able to go to a local launderette, but there isn't one!

My idea is to look into how we can set up a community launderette in Sneinton. I have identified some premises that may be suitable, but will carry on looking, as well as researching equipment, insurance, utility bills and product.

I have looked into the idea of a token system linked to local shops and I would be grateful for any ideas, and support anyone could offer to make this plan for our community work.

Contact: Shabana via shabana.najib@corganisers.org.uk

ANDREW BREW, VOLUNTEER CO



For the past seven years, after my mum died, I wandered aimlessly, wanting to help people, but unsure of how to do it exactly.

But after getting involved with the amazing people at TRACS Neighbourhood Centre and Community Organisers, I feel inspired and committed to help those less fortunate than me.

I have met some truly amazing people through this process.

INSTEAD OF FEELING ANGRY AT THE WORLD, I ACTUALLY FEEL LIKE I CAN HELP FAR MORE PEOPLE THAN I COULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED.

Through helping set up a radio station, starting creative writing classes and just generally listening to people, I feel I'm in a position where I can actually help, and make a positive change in this world.

Contact: Simone on 077387298 or simone.miller@corganisers.org.uk

Mad, me?

Community Organiser Dawn reflects on her involvement in the Sneinton Community

When I returned to England after a decade abroad I just couldn't believe how dirty it was here. Walking round with a new baby, something occurred to me: He's going to think this is normal. No way. So I dragged a dustbin around, picked up thickly strewn rubbish on an old railway embankment.

You're mad,' said the Manager as I walked by the Centre. I picked more rubbish up. People looked at me and my dustbin with a kind of disdain. Oh well, I'm mad then.

I BEGAN REGULAR CLEAN UPS - ME, BABY, DOG, DUSTBIN...

Over time, a few of us shifted tons of rubbish and wrangled with the Council about lorries, gloves, bins, dog parks and stuff.

In 2004, I discovered 'Alchemy' and joined in. A small team of us grafted long and hard shaping a CIC, and lobbied about local economy, environment and social life here. We accomplished some great stuff, like the Sneinton Neighbourhood Design

Vision, but we remained a small team with limited reach.

Last year, Alchemy became the smallest organisation in the country to be accepted as a Community Organiser host and I successfully applied for a traineeship. After intensive residentials I began listening to people - calling at their homes, out and about, bus stops, markets, pubs.

Apart from some tweaks, I rate the strategy which underpins our work - Roots Solutions Listening Matters: No agenda, listen to everyone - a people's research enterprise which seeks to include everyone to get to the root causes of problems and collaborate on solutions. It's a slow process - some people want in, some are too needy to contribute, and some people don't give a flying one. Hey ho.

Hey presto: The network expands, new projects are inspiring: 'Bloomers' on Trent Lane is a brand new club for old folks, these ladies snatching victory from the jaws of defeat after a centre closure nearby; secondly - TLC (and a substantial fund) for dear old TRACs is blossoming, and lastly, please see Christina, below...

MEET THE TEAM



STEPHEN, CO



DAWN, CO



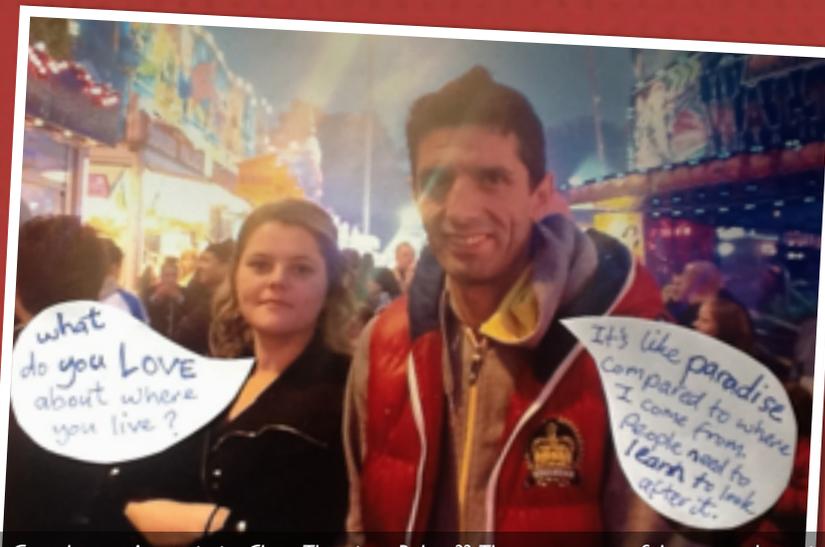
SHABANA, CO



SIMONE, TRAINEE CO



DAVID, TRAINEE CO



"The Greenhouse.. Autopoiesis.. ChaosTheorists.. Pulse...?? These are some of the names bouncing around for a group coming together in response to Christina's idea that we need to reach people who live in hostels and other temporary settings. If you want to find out more, please get in touch with Dawn or Simone." (see back page for contact details)

Strength in depth for the Sneinton CO team:

Since our last newsletter the team of organisers in Sneinton has seen 3 of its members graduate from training, another 2 trainees join and the team of volunteers expand to over 30 strong.

On Thursday 28th March 2013 Community Organisers, Steve Smith, Shabana Najib and Dawn Manners had their graduation ceremony, so now no longer Trainee Community organisers!! CONGRATULATIONS TEAM!

Two project leaders from Sneinton, Nina Bennett (The Hub) and Simon Marciano (Youth engagement) also attended the celebrations in London

“It was really nice that our volunteer community organisers came with us, and had the opportunity to network with some great knowledgeable people.”

Samantha Murray, silver medalist at the London 2012 Olympics, attended the graduation ceremony and participated in a listening conversation on stage with graduated CO Keith Brown.

Towards the end of the ceremony, the Organisers shared how they were going to continue working in the Community Steve Smith and Simone Miller wrote, “We want to continue working in Sneinton to.....

- Give people a voice
- Tackle cohesion
- Tackle poverty
- Break down barriers in our community
- Bring about change by harnessing the potential of diversity.”

Contacting the CO team:

Please give one of the team an email, call or text using the details below:

- **David Jones: 07738729828**
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- **Simone Miller: 077387298**
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- **Stephen Smith: 07580451305**
stevesmth100@gmail.com
- **Dawn Manners: 07582 216 957**
dawn@sneinton-alchemy.com
- **Shabana Najib:**
shabana.najib@corganisers.org.uk

To sponsor future editions of this newsletter please contact one of the CO team using the details above



Sneinton Alchemy



You can also follow progress on the Sneinton Alchemy website:

www.sneinton-alchemy.com/WhatWeDo/community-organisers

or find Sneinton Community Organisers on Facebook. We look forward to listening to you soon!

Introducing our new COs:

In December 2012 Sneinton Alchemy was delighted to appoint an additional two Trainee Community Organisers to the team. This will enable us to carry on the excellent work already started and expand the listening coverage further across Sneinton and Bakersfield. Here they give us some background:

Tell us a bit about yourself

David: I have been living and working here for 7 years now, and have been especially interested in promoting community projects like our local community Festival.

Simone: I am originally from a small town called Beverley in East Yorkshire, and moved to Nottingham in 2004 to study Fashion Design. I rented accommodation in the heart of Sneinton, and fell in love with the area...

What is it you love about Sneinton?

David: Its sense of community, its summer festival, and some of the things nearby like the Colwick woods and lakes.

Simone: What I love about Sneinton the most is the cultural diversity and community spirit; I feel comfortable, peaceful and at home here...

What worries you about the area?

David: my concerns include poverty in every sense of the word, also a lack of certain key resources (e.g a football pitch) and am also concerned about integration of new communities, and issues of health.

Simone: The real concerns I have about the area is that, although I can see and feel a good community spirit, I also feel that people do not integrate enough; this worries me, however I do believe this will change in time.

Care to share your personal vision for Sneinton?

David: Some fancy new facilities! Also the idea that people will be happy in themselves and fulfilled - united by what they love rather than divided over culture, religion or nationality.

Simone: My vision for Sneinton is for everyone to support and work with each other to make a positive change, to see projects develop, and for everyone to be happy. My passion is “people”, and I am very focused upon helping empower people in our community to progress in life.