

Catholic Association for Racial Justice

Liverpool Branch

Annual Report April 2018-March 2019

Committee Membership

Both Angela Murphy and Veronica Shaw stepped down during the year. We are grateful for their contribution to successfully establishing Liverpool CARJ.

Steve Atherton (Liverpool Archdiocese J&P Coordinator) was invited to attend meetings with a view to joining the Committee. In addition we have received assistance from Sally Croughan, a Children's Centre Manager, Ian Merrison, a local businessman with bid writing skills, Rachel Bruce, a Marketing Assistant for Redrow Housing, and Clare Smith, Manager of Yates Court.

Volunteers

Apart from the Committee Members we have 5 volunteers who help at the Belvidere and Yates Court Centres. These are Rachel, Ambrosio, Ciara, Ebroje and Steve.

Meetings

Formal meetings were held on 4 occasions during the year:

- 15th May 2018
- 11th September 2018
- 6th December 2018
- 30th January 2019

Existing Projects

The Voices of Hope Gospel Choir has continued to thrive at St Hugh's and St Clare's. Sacred Heart's membership was short lived because of paternity leave. To help continuity pupils were only allowed to join at the start of the school year. Links to allow/encourage progression from the choir to RESONATE Music Hub were successful but the link with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra has been disappointing.

Performances were again given at

- Barclay Card HQ Wavertree,
- Asda Smithdown Road,
- the Royal Liverpool Hospital,
- the Anglican Cathedral,
- Liverpool One Shopping Centre,
- The Museum of Liverpool Life.

The Belvidere Liverpool and Yates Court Prescot Homeless Family Centres

Both After School Homework Clubs continued to thrive and grow, There has been a steady increase in numbers and the Summer Activities Programme continues to grow. There has been a steady

increase in Volunteer support and the Whitechapel Centre is highly complimentary about the impact of our provision. Resources continue to be donated by friends and committee members.

St Vincent de Paul Primary School

This instrumental music project has not been a success due to personal problems of the teacher employed. Whilst 12 pupils were taught regularly there were no public performances given and the committee was not offered the opportunity to meet the children. Few quality evaluations were carried out.

Elephant Project

The project was completed by 4 schools St Vincent de Paul's, St Clare's, St Hugh's and St Vincent's School for the Blind. Each school was given an elephant sculpture to design, paint and decorate. Some very high quality work was achieved on a variety of themes and excellent pamphlets were produced for CARJ Publicity.

The Drama Project

Angela Wylie worked with Collective Encounters Theatre Company during the spring term to produce a piece of theatre at St Hugh's School. This initiative part-funded by the Austin Smith Fund was a great success. The pupils focussed on the theme Faith and was achieved by 14 pupils from years 3-6 from the UK, Yemen, Syria, Ethiopia, Czech Republic, India, Iraq, Sierra Leone and Jamaica. Angela wrote an illustrated evaluation of the project.

New Projects: Art Project

Funding from the Austin Smith Fund allowed us to develop an arts project with 3 local professional artists on the theme 'My Community'. Five primary schools will be invited to take part and produce art work which will be printed, mounted, framed and sold to raise funds for CARJ Liverpool.

Other Events: Trustee Visit

We invited CARJ Trustees, Father Phil Sumner and Melvin Lyons, to visit Liverpool on 30th January (the snowiest and coldest day of the winter) to attend a Board Meeting and visit some of our projects. Melvyn was very enthusiastic and Phil was challenging. They challenged us with penetrating questions about our projects and encouraged us to discuss the relative merits of strategic and lobbying activity and project activity. They and Stave Atherton also challenged us to become better known within the Archdiocese. After attending the board meeting they were taken on a 'goldfish bowl' tour of our projects.

Austin Smith Day

CARJ Liverpool committee members (Angela Wylie and Brendan Schmacke and wife) attended the Fr Austin Smith Celebration Day on Lodge Lane and displayed the activities of CARJ. Austin Smith was a very well-known and loved Priest who spent most of his life working in Inner City Liverpool. A fund named after him is used to support small scale initiatives in Toxteth and CARJ has been very successful in bidding for small scale support.

Challenges

Our biggest challenge is the survival of Liverpool CARJ beyond Christmas 2019. We were initially established with funding for 4 years. In fact by bid writing and careful financial management we have lasted 8 years but money is running out! HELP!!!

Bill Chambers October 2019

