



# newsletter

Spring 2007



*The ECCN Committee*

**Welcome** to the first Newsletter of the Eastbourne Cultural Communities Network (ECCN)

**What is the network about?**

- To be a face and voice for all multi-cultural groups in Eastbourne & the surrounding areas.
- To organise social and cultural events.
- To unite and to celebrate the talents, interests and skills of all ethnic groups in and around Eastbourne

**What will Membership do for you and your community**

- Support for individuals & groups
- Advice & representation
- A chance to build strong relationships and network with people from other communities and cultural groups.

## **International Friendship Day**

The ECCN is planning two new events in the light of the success of their first 'International Friendship Day' event held at Bourne School on 3 February 2007.

The new committee were really pleased by the success of this, their first event, which included displays, dancing and workshops from around the world. The local community joined in all the workshops, especially the African drumming and folk dancing. Food from as far a field as Thailand and Poland was enjoyed by all, as was the Japanese tea ceremony.



*Traditional Thai dancing*

These pictures show how well a community can come together to share their different cultures. A visitor on the day said that after years of living in the same street, this was the first time they had actually spoken to a close neighbour.

*There was a demonstration of African drumming and everyone had the chance to have a go themselves afterwards*





The event was opened by popular local businessman, Mr Elvis Hau and The Worshipful The Mayor of Eastbourne, Councillor Colin Belsey and was also attended by the Vice-Lieutenant of East Sussex, Peter Field and Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council, Councillor Ian Lucas.

The response to the day was amazing with stalls and entertainment from many different countries and cultures. Many of those that attended said that they couldn't wait until the next event took place.

*Sudaporn (Kob) White performing the traditional Thai Dance of Welcome*

Well, it isn't long to wait, although the next International Friendship Day will not be until next year, the committee are planning a 'Bring a Dish' event at Stafford School on 13 May and 'World in Motion' Summer Festival at the Redoubt Fortress on 8 July. Make a note in your diaries and join in the fun.

*A Belly Dancing demonstration was part of the fun of the International Friendship Day*



## ***'Bring a Dish'***

This event is an excuse for a big get together. All you need to do is bring a dish which is representative of your culture and have a willingness to try something new.

You will be able to try some of the best food from some of the best cooks in Eastbourne and as well as very enjoyable company, there will be entertainment provided and a chance to learn a few words of a new language. This event will be held at Stafford School on 13 May 2007 from 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

## **'World in Motion'**

The World in Motion Summer Festival promises to be even more exciting and fun than the International Friendship Day. This event is planned to be held at the unusual venue of the Redoubt Fortress near 'Splash Point' on the seafront.

Hopefully the sun will be shining and as it is a large outdoor venue we are planning even more ambitious entertainment, stalls and refreshments.

We welcome new ideas and new members, so if you can contribute to this event in any way, have a great idea we could use, or just be part of our network, please contact us at: Town Hall, Grove Road, Eastbourne BN21 4UG

