

LINKING COMMUNITIES'

NEWSLETTER

October 2005
Issue 4.3

A BLACK & VISIBLE MINORITY ETHNIC NETWORK FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

In This Addition

Forthcoming meeting dates and events for your diaries...	
Join us to Celebrate Black History Month in Gloucester...	
Board of Trustees	
Funding News and Information...	
S.H. Training & Employment Services	
New resources from NIACE	
User Involvement in Cancer Services	
Women At GymNation	
Liverpool Maritime Museum	
Why should I Do Volunteering? "Sari's, Stars and Superstition"	
The Filipino Association of Gloucestershire	
GDAS Community Outreach Team	
Update on The Welfare Benefits Take-up Campaign	
Learn a New Language	
Sudo-Ku Puzzle Answers	
Cross Word Puzzle	
Display Your Information	
Creative Corner	
Feedback	

Linking Communities AGM	Monday 14 th November 2005 Starting at 7.00 p.m. Colwell Youth and Community Centre, Derby Road, Gloucester
Roundtable Meeting	Wednesday 30 th November Time: 2:30 pm Venue – To be announced

Join us to Celebrate Black History Month in Gloucester...

Linking Communities will be hosting an event which will be taking place on Thursday 27th October 2005, as part of Black History Month to celebrate the contributions that the BME voluntary and community sector has made in Gloucester. The event called Jamboree 2005 will be held at Colwell Youth and Community Centre, Derby Road, Gloucester and will be staged from 3.15 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. please put the date in your diaries!

The final details for the event will be revealed soon...but to give you a taster...the day's celebrations will include drama production by young people, Indian Dancers, scheduled workshops, speeches, with the day ending in a musical spectacle.

The event is specially designed for BME voluntary groups and local people and will be a great opportunity to network, meet new people, and gain information about local services as well as having a great time!

As part of the event we would also like to invite other voluntary groups and organisations providing services for the BME community to be part of the celebrations by displaying a stand at our event. If you would like to take up the opportunity of displaying a stand please

Forthcoming meeting dates and events for your diaries...

Jamboree 2005 (Celebrating Black History Month in Gloucester)	Thursday 27 th October 2005 Starting at 1.30 p.m. Colwell Youth and Community Centre, Derby Road, Gloucester
---	---

**LINKING
COMMUNITIES**

postbox@linkingcommunities.org.uk
Ph: 01452 308448
Fax: 01452 504755

177 Barton Street
Gloucester, GL1 4HY
www.linkingcommunities.org.uk

Charity Registration No.: 1087428

**A BLACK & VISIBLE
MINORITY ETHNIC
NETWORK FOR
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

contact the team at Linking Communities to ensure that an exhibition space is reserved for you. We look forward to hearing from you!

Annual General Meeting

Linking Communities' Annual General Meeting will be held at Colwell Community Centre, Derby Road, Gloucester on **Monday 14th November 2005** from 7:00 pm onwards. Please phone the office on 01452 308448 to confirm your attendance.



Board of Trustees

Linking Communities was established in 2001, to support the needs of Black and minority ethnic community groups so that they survive and flourish to offer much needed services to members of their communities who's specific requirement can get lost in the more generic mainstream organisations.

In order to best meet your needs we rely on a representative team of community members to guide and manage the direction and development of Linking Communities. We are currently looking to add to this Board of Trustees. You would meet bi-monthly with our other trustees to offer your experience to aid the management of the organisation and help in the decision making process. The more involved you become the more you could help to advance Linking Communities.

Below is a list of skills that we would most benefit from:

- Knowledge of operational management.
- Knowledge of financial management procedures.
- Good people skills and administrative skills.
- Computer literacy skills.
- Knowledge of the BME community.
- Knowledge of legal structures, particularly those relevant to the voluntary and community sector.
- Knowledge of latest ICT systems and networking technology.
- Marketing and promotional skills.
- Business knowledge and management skills.

- Research methodology.

If you would like to get involve then please contact Linking Communities for a one-to-one chat on 01452 308448.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Funding News and Information...

Gloucestershire County Council's Grants Round 2006/07

Gloucestershire County Council's (GCC) grants round is open again, and applications are particularly welcome from BME groups providing services that fit in within the funding priorities. Please see the enclosed sheets for details of the sorts of work GCC will consider funding. It is advisable that you contact the Grants Officers to discuss your project before applying - this could save you time and effort if it turns out that your project is outside their funding priorities. The deadline to return your application form is **Thursday 1st December 2005.**

For other sources of financial support, please click on www.gloshub.org.uk/funding to use the free funding search database provided by the County Council to help you find local, regional and national grants.

Arts Funding Opportunity For BME Groups & Projects

Do you have a great idea for an arts based project, which needs some support to get things off the ground? Gloucestershire County Council Arts Development funding is available for activities starting from April 2006. Small scale grants are available for innovative work involving the communities of the County.

The project needs to be a new development – not something you are already doing.



Projects should also have some countywide significance, for example by acting as a model, which others around the county could copy.

Previous projects we have funded range from the Chinese Women's Guild's street theatre to Gloucester FM Community Radio; from a rap poetry project with young people to a dance

**LINKING
COMMUNITIES**

postbox@linkingcommunities.org.uk

Ph: 01452 308448

Fax: 01452 504755

177 Barton Street

Gloucester, GL1 4HY

www.linkingcommunities.org.uk

Charity Registration No.: 1087428

**A BLACK & VISIBLE
MINORITY ETHNIC
NETWORK FOR
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

performance based on the stories of Gloucester's immigrant communities.

Arts Development Officer Helen Owen is happy to talk through your ideas, and assistance completing the application form.

Application forms are available direct from Helen, and the deadline to return your application form is 1 December 2005. All decisions on funding for 2006/7 will be taken in March 2006.

Contact: Helen Owen, Arts Development Officer, Tel: 01452 544049, Email: helen.owen@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Community Chest Grants

Calling all local groups and community organisations... if you have a project which needs additional funding support or perhaps an idea for a new event or activity that will benefit your local community in some way, then you may be eligible for a Community Chest grant.



Local clubs, groups and organisations that need support for specific projects can apply for funding from a special fund which has been set up by Community Counts. The Community Chest Fund provides grants for projects based within the Community Counts areas of Barton, Tredworth and White City and which contribute in some way to building community cohesion.

To qualify for a grant, groups will need to demonstrate how their particular project will have a positive long-term impact on the areas mentioned above. Or, if it is a short-term project or a one-off event, the application must illustrate how this will provide a speedy solution to a particular problem or address a local issue. Organisations meeting these criteria will be eligible for any amount up to a maximum of £1,000. Examples of applications that Community Counts have funded include community fun days, initial start up funding for sports related activity for the community.

To find out more you can:

·Give the Community Counts team a call on

554408 to talk through your idea;

·Download a grant application form (PDF format) by going onto their website: <http://www.communitycounts.org.uk/index.asp>

·Or email your enquiry to community.counts@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Reminding all Community Groups...

Gloucester City Council community support grants include development grants and training grants which local community groups can apply for throughout the year. Training grants can be used to improve the effectiveness of your group, for example, if you wanted to visit a similar organisation, attend a conference or organise a training session for your management committee. For further information or if you would like to obtain an application form you can contact the Community Development team on:

Tel: (01452) 396980

Website:

<http://www.gloucester.gov.uk/libraries/templates/page.asp?FolderID=333>

S.H. Training & Employment Services

S.H. Training & Employment Services has been providing Basic Skills Training in the community for approximately eight years with fantastic result rates and 100% retention.

Most of the courses are free subject to eligibility. We operate a roll on roll off programme, therefore enrolment can be at any time as many of the courses are short. Also during October 2005, we are having an open/presentation day. If you are age 16 years and above and would like more information please call S.H. Training & Employment Services on 01452/413130, or call into Eastgate House, 121-131 Eastgate Street, Gloucester, we are open from Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm.

To give you a taster of the courses that we are currently offering please see below:

- Sageline 50 - Book-Keeping
- European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)
- Certificate in ICT - Level 1 -2
- Diploma in ICT - Level 1 - 2

**LINKING
COMMUNITIES**

postbox@linkingcommunities.org.uk

Ph: 01452 308448

Fax: 01452 504755

177 Barton Street

Gloucester, GL1 4HY

www.linkingcommunities.org.uk

Charity Registration No.: 1087428

**A BLACK & VISIBLE
MINORITY ETHNIC
NETWORK FOR
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

- ESOL, entry Level 1 - 3
- Literacy/Numeracy at National Test Level
- Job Seeking Skills activities and Active Employability
- Business Administration.

All courses leads to a recognised qualification.

New resources from NIACE



NIACE have recently published a range of new resources for adult literacy, numeracy and ESOL practitioners. These books will be valuable reference points for any teacher, researcher or student involved in this area, and would be of particular benefit to reading lists for any PGCE, masters or teaching course in adult literacy. For further information you can contact NIACE on:

Tel: 0116 204 4200 or
0116 204 4201

Website: <http://www.niace.org.uk>

Or alternatively you can contact the team at Linking Communities for more information.

User Involvement in Cancer Services

Have you ever thought you would like to be consulted about the services you use? Do you get frustrated when things seem to be out of your control? Is there any change that would have made your experience better? Or was your experience positive and you would like to 'give something back'? If 'yes' please read on...

All cancer services are delivered through networks, ours is three Counties Cancer Network whose centre is in Cheltenham. So what does it mean to be part of a network user group? Obviously meetings! These are held quarterly but a lot goes on in between too. Groups are based in localities and comprise patients, ex-patients, carers and ex-carers working with a facilitator and health professionals. The groups have links to the network management board via the Network Partnership Group and can have a real influence on decision-making.

Training is available through Cancer VOICES

which is supported by Macmillan Cancer Relief. This is a fun two days where users and professionals gain confidence in working together and practice putting together a case for change.

Groups work to make improvements for all cancer patients in the network, working on such things as opening support centres, parking issues, transport problems for people trying to get to cancer centres from remote areas, the information given to patients, you name it!

The groups are also a means of consultation; they may be asked for their views on anything from nurses' uniforms to the siting of particular services.

For some, local involvement is only the start, there are opportunities to become part of national programmes and initiatives especially with Macmillan Cancer Relief. Recently, a group of ex carers published a pack specifically for carers to support them in their role; 'Hello and How Are You' is now available from Macmillan. If public speaking is your forte then there are national conferences that would definitely be able to use your talents!

Our locality groups are always seeking new members. If you have an interest in wider issues and feel that you have something to give for the benefit of all cancer patients and carers please join us. Contact Jane Grant on 01242 215478, email jane.grant@glos.nhs.uk or write to 3 Counties Cancer Network, The Chapel, St Paul's Medical Centre, Swindon Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 4DP for details of your nearest group or more information.

Women At GymNation

Women's only gym sessions are continuing at GymNation four times a week at the following times:
Mondays 12:15 - 2pm and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays between 12:15 - 3pm.

The sessions are exclusively for women and a qualified Female Fitness Instructor is available to help beginners or anyone wanting advice on exercise, dieting, losing weight, etc. The gym

**LINKING
COMMUNITIES**

postbox@linkingcommunities.org.uk

Ph: 01452 308448

Fax: 01452 504755

177 Barton Street

Gloucester, GL1 4HY

www.linkingcommunities.org.uk

Charity Registration No.: 1087428

**A BLACK & VISIBLE
MINORITY ETHNIC
NETWORK FOR
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

has exercise bikes, rowers, running machines, free weights and more, and women can exercise according to their own routines and at their own pace, with qualified support if required.

The sessions are supported by Gloucester City Council and the West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust and therefore only cost 50 pence a time. Current attendance is from women aged between 15 – 65. All women are welcome to give it a go.

Please ring 308127 or 07977 022393 if you have any further questions.. GymNation is based at City Works, Alfred St, Gloucester, in the car park of the old 'Jermyn Street Shirt Factory'

Liverpool Maritime Museum

At part of the Black History Month celebrations Linking Communities' LIPPE project, in partnership with Barton and Tredworth Detached Project has organising a day-trip to Liverpool's Maritime Museum on Saturday 29th October 2005.

The Merseyside Maritime Museum is in a former bonded warehouse, part of the historic Albert Dock on the banks of the River Mersey. The museum, opened in 1980, tells the story of one of the world's greatest ports and the people who used it. The museum's collections reflect the international importance of Liverpool as a gateway to the world, including the city's role in the transatlantic slave trade and emigration.

Tickets costs £5.00 each. To ensure that your place is booked or for more information please call...

Departure point is the Colwell Youth and Community Centre at 8.30 a.m. sharp!

- Tony on 07783320226
- Errol on 0777236871
- Beff on 07973552569 or
- Mary on 07976967176

Why should I Do Volunteering?

WHY? I hear you ask.....

- Do you need experience in particular work

areas or just particular work experience?

- Do you need experience in particular for your (CV) Curriculum Vitae?
- Are you training on a course and not sure if you're doing the right thing?
- Is your Confidence or Self Esteem Low?

If you've answered YES to any of the above Volunteering can be the way forward for you.



- Volunteering can be one of the most rewarding and fulfilling tasks anyone could do.
- You would not just be helping yourself you would be helping your Community and City.
- All you have to do is give up some of your free time as little or as much as you wish.
- It can be an enjoyable experience with many rewards.
- You never know you may be offered a job at the end of your volunteering experience.

So come on join in and make a difference to your life and world around you.

Log on to our website: do-it.org.uk.

Our aim is to assist people from all cultures, areas and backgrounds to make a real difference through volunteering. GCVS will link volunteers with opportunities and openings so the voluntary and community sector can extend and improve the services they provide.

Gloucester - Drive GCVS is about recognising the contribution that volunteers young & old across Gloucester make, from all walks of life and all communities. There's a need to encourage members of Black & minority ethnic communities to volunteer so the voluntary and community sector reflects the needs of our society'

We recognise that language, or attitudes, and negative perceptions can be a barrier to participating fully in, your community and through this programme we intend to address these issues and help breakdown the barriers and change perceptions.

We want to assist volunteers, projects and

**LINKING
COMMUNITIES**

postbox@linkingcommunities.org.uk

Ph: 01452 308448

Fax: 01452 504755

177 Barton Street

Gloucester, GL1 4HY

www.linkingcommunities.org.uk

Charity Registration No.: 1087428

**A BLACK & VISIBLE
MINORITY ETHNIC
NETWORK FOR
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

centres to encourage where necessary an open and welcoming approach that will result in a more diverse and dynamic voluntary and community sector.

Give us a call at G- Drive on: 01452 332424 ask for Dorrett or Karen. Or you can email: Dorrett@gloucestercvs.org.uk or volunteering@gloucestercvs.org.uk.

GDAS Community Outreach Team

Meeting the Needs of the Community, in the Community.



A significant number of people in Gloucestershire are not aware that there are services to help individuals with drug problems, and their friends and family. This was highlighted in a Black and Ethnic Minority Drugs Report carried out earlier this year.

In response to these findings, Gloucestershire Drug and Alcohol Service (GDAS) have developed a new team: the Community Outreach Team. Our remit is to reach the communities around Gloucestershire to highlight the services available and to work with people away from GDAS offices. We can also undertake training for groups and organisations that have a need to increase their knowledge of drugs.

Services for Stimulant Users:

The Report also identified problems with the use of crack cocaine and other stimulants, and that there is a common misconception that drug services only work with heroin but also other opiate related drug problems. The GDAS Community Outreach Team is therefore setting up one-to-one and group-working services for stimulant users. For more information phone Bryan on the number below.

Where to find us:

Staff have been appointed to cover the county, and have started to meet clients at venues such as the Trust Centre, Neighbourhood Projects and Friendship Café in Gloucester.

If you would like:

- help with a drug problem (including alcohol),
- harm minimisation information,

- to talk to someone about how you can support a family member or friend with a drug problem,
- drugs awareness sessions for your community group,
- to offer rooms for us to meet clients in a one-to-one setting:

You can contact GDAS on 01452 381166, or contact the Gloucester Outreach Drugs Workers on the following numbers.

Bryan – 07814 121370

Iqbal – 07855 423058

Nasim – 07746 769573

Don't let language be a barrier

Information is available in a number of languages and may be obtainable in others. We currently have leaflets in the following languages:

Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Gujarati, Punjabi, Somali and Urdu. We are also able to access the services of translators for speakers of many languages.

Further information is available at our offices, or check our website at:

www.gdas.co.uk

GDAS
Hepworth House
115 Southgate Street
Gloucester

Update on The Welfare Benefits Take-up Campaign

The Welfare Benefits Take-up Campaign has been awarded a two-year contract from the Partnership Fund, to work specifically around Benefit Take-up for people 60 and over in Gloucester.

We are targeting people from hard to reach groups, housebound and isolated. A part-time worker has been appointed to oversee the project and we are now looking to recruit people from the following communities to help the 60 and Over Take-up Officer: Bangladeshi, Chinese and African-Caribbean. The Support Workers will be employed by the City Council

**LINKING
COMMUNITIES**

postbox@linkingcommunities.org.uk

Ph: 01452 308448

Fax: 01452 504755

177 Barton Street

Gloucester, GL1 4HY

www.linkingcommunities.org.uk

Charity Registration No.: 1087428

**A BLACK & VISIBLE
MINORITY ETHNIC
NETWORK FOR
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

on a Zero contract basis and will work alongside the Welfare Benefit Take-up Officer. We will provide full training, if you are interested in getting involved, or if you know of anyone who might be, then please contact Mohamed Ginwalla on 01452 396979 for further information.

Display Your Information

Linking Communities are more than happy to display leaflets and posters in our reception area.

In order for us to keep the general public up-to-date with community initiatives. Please sent your information to Linking Communities, 177 Barton Street, Gloucester, GL1 4HY. Thank you.

Feedback

If you have any suggestions, compliments or complaints to make about any aspect of the services Linking Communities provide please sent them to:

**The Secretary
Private and Confidential
Linking Communities
177 Barton Street
Gloucester
GL1 4HY**

Any complaints will be investigated with urgency and confidentiality.

Sudo-Ku Puzzle Answers

Answers from our July 2005 edition:

4	3	5	2	7	8	1	9	6
1	8	9	4	3	6	7	2	5
7	2	6	9	5	1	4	8	3
6	1	4	7	8	2	3	5	9
3	7	8	5	6	9	2	1	4
5	9	2	3	1	4	6	7	8
2	6	3	1	9	5	8	4	7
9	4	7	8	2	3	5	6	1
8	5	1	6	4	7	9	3	2

Cross Word Puzzle

When you surf the internet, you will have found

that all the websites are hosted on 'domain names'. They are the part of the website address that goes between 'www.' and '.com', '.co.uk', '.org.uk', '.net', '.gov.uk' and any other domain enders. For example, Linking Communities' domain is 'www.linkingcommunities.org.uk', are domain name is 'linkingcommunities'. This cross words answers is the editions puzzle are all domains from sites on the Links page of our website (which can be found at www.linkingcommunities.org.uk/links.html)

Across

4: who made me?



6:

8: Based at 99 Barton Street

9: This is our Citizenship

Down

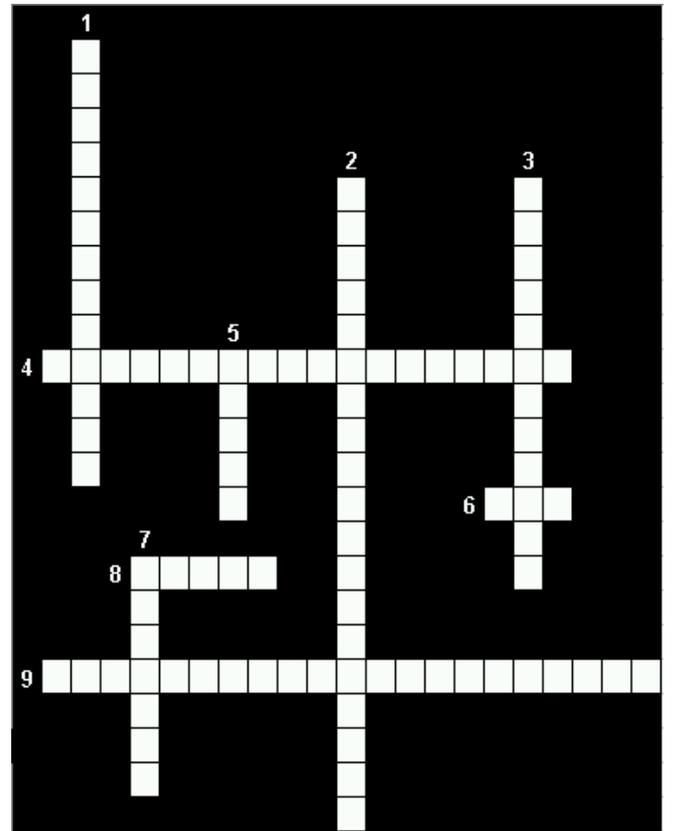
1: The Filipino Association of Gloucestershire

2: learning more specific than Chinese

3: Music 'in the mix'

5: A 'Safe Place'

7: Home of the Compact



Learn a New Language

**LINKING
COMMUNITIES**

postbox@linkingcommunities.org.uk

Ph: 01452 308448

Fax: 01452 504755

177 Barton Street

Gloucester, GL1 4HY

www.linkingcommunities.org.uk

Charity Registration No.: 1087428

**A BLACK & VISIBLE
MINORITY ETHNIC
NETWORK FOR
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

www.glos-mandarinschool.org.uk

You are invited to join **free** Mandarin Chinese taster sessions taking place on the following days..



Sunday 9th October 11.00 am – 12.30 pm Pates Grammar School, Princess Elizabeth Way, Cheltenham	Saturday 8th October 14.30 am – 16.00 pm Language Centre, Sir Thomas Rich's School Oakleaze, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 0LF
--	--

The Taster Sessions have been organised by the Gloucestershire Mandarin School.

For further information/enrolment please contact Ms Fu, Course Administrator 01452-526170 (answer phone) Mobile: 07720-637976 Email: mandarin_school@hotmail.com

Creative Corner

“Sari’s, Stars and Superstition”

Pooja Written and performed by Rani Moorthy



Ancient superstitions clash with modern life at the Everyman Theatre on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 November as Rani Moorthy, host of Radio 2 Pause for Thought and guest presenter of BBC1 Heaven and Earth, performs Pooja, her acclaimed comic drama about a woman who defies her stars.

A mistimed birth, A miscalculated horoscope. Since everything in an Indian woman's life depends on the stars, there is drama, hysteria and absurd comedy everywhere. Flirting in the disco at night, and marrying a banana tree at dawn, welcome to the crazy world of being born at the wrong time!

Pooja (n. meaning ritual in Sanskrit) tells the story of Ranjana and her struggle with the forces of family and horoscope. With destiny pre-ordained by time of birth, she juggles century-old rituals to deflect foretold ills with the pleasures of modern life. Rani Moorthy creates

twelve characters that expose the oppression of archaic rituals and the comedy of ancient fears that lie within all immigrant communities. Presented by Manchester based Rasa, the production blends stand-up comedy, South Asian storytelling, video and Hindu ritual.

“Spitfire acid wit delivery...she brought the house down...A+ for brilliant Pooja” Malay Mail



“HHHH...complex, glorious, dynamic and warm.” The Scotsman

Pooja originally premiered in Manchester (1999). After playing to full houses in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2002), Pooja undertook a sell out tour of Sri Lanka (2003) for the British Council.

A Sri Lankan Tamil born in Malaysia, Rani was educated and worked in Singapore, creating lead roles in theatre, hosting hit TV comedies, and writing and starring in films. Rani moved to Manchester UK in 1996 - the day the IRA bomb exploded. Acting credits include A&E, Coronation Street, and Romeo and Juliet. She has written for Doctors and her play Manchester United & the Malay Warrior was premiered by Rasa during the Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival. Rani’s new play Dancing Within Walls was produced by Rasa at Contact in December 2003.

Listing details...

Date: Thursday 17th – Friday 18 Nov

Time: 7.45pm

TICKETS £7.50 (discounts available)

Venue: Everyman Theatre, Regent Street, Cheltenham. GL50 1HQ

Web address: www.everymantheatre.org.uk

=====

For further info, pictures etc visit:

Web: www.rasatheatre.co.uk

Printed by Linking Communities

**LINKING
COMMUNITIES**

postbox@linkingcommunities.org.uk

Ph: 01452 308448

Fax: 01452 504755

177 Barton Street

Gloucester, GL1 4HY

www.linkingcommunities.org.uk

Charity Registration No.: 1087428

**A BLACK & VISIBLE
MINORITY ETHNIC
NETWORK FOR
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**