



Supporting the successful integration of all migrants, refugees, BME community members and groups in Essex and Hertfordshire

2012 - Why volunteer with ISS?

...because volunteering can help your integration and change your life for better!

There are many reasons why people give up their time for volunteering. For some volunteering can be a route to employment which may lead to a career change, or a chance to try something new. From this perspective therefore volunteering can be a way of gaining new skills, knowledge and experience. For others by developing existing skills and knowledge it can improve employment prospects, or lead to achieving an accreditation.

For many of the people that ISS supports, volunteering appeals also because of its social benefits. These include: meeting new people, making new friends, a chance to socialise, getting to know the local community and a stronger sense of belonging.



During this year ISS can offer you a wide range of opportunities to volunteer such as:

Interpreting, Translation, Advocating, Admin and IT, Event Organiser and marketing, Monitoring and Evaluation, Teaching assistants or Play workers. Whatever your interests we can find a place for you.

So what you are waiting for? Give us a call and start the New Year with a positive change in your life!

For an informal chat about volunteering and opportunities with ISS please call our office on 01279 639442 or email: info@iss.org.uk and we will be delighted to help.

New Year New Challenges for Integration Support Services

Despite the funding cuts and the reduced resources that ISS suffered in 2011, the charity still managed to provide many valuable services to many migrants, refugees and other ethnic minority members in West Essex and East Herts.

One of the biggest achievements of 2011 is the accreditation of PQASSO Level 2 followed by the successful application to the Transition Fund, the new partnership project in Uttlesford with Spangles Children Centre, Mountfitchet. The Awards For All Community Cafe Project, ESOL Classes in Chigwell supported by L&Q housing Association, Polish Classes for children in Harlow supported by The Salvation Army, The Outreach Project supported by Lloyds TSB Foundation, the Family Club in Loughton, Epping Forest supported by Epping Forest Council and

many other projects which have made a real difference in many people's lives.

The 2012 priorities will be at establishing more **partnerships** across Essex and Hertfordshire and providing a **stronger voice** for migrant workers and refugees who live in this region particularly in Epping Forest, Basildon and Harlow.

We aim to be regulated by the Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) at **Level 1 OISC** by the end of 2012.

We will recruit and involve **more volunteers** to support all activities of ISS.

Raising more funds for the charity by implementing ISS fundraising strategy and exploring new ways of fundraising.

The Agency Workers Regulations (known as AWR)

AWR came into force on the 1st of October 2011. The AWR will apply to any agency worker who finds work through a recruitment agency but not those who are self-employed or under a managed service contract. The AWR set down the principles of equal treatment and state that agency workers are entitled to the same basic working and employment conditions as A would have been entitled to for doing the same job had A been recruited by the hirer other than by using the services of a temporary work agency and at the time the qualifying period commenced.

The AWR sets out how an agency worker must be treated; essentially they must be treated as if they had been recruited directly by the hirer. This will include pay (including holiday pay, overtime, shift work, performance bonuses etc), duration of working time, length of night work, rest breaks, rest periods and annual leave.

An agency worker is only entitled to equal treatment after a 12 week qualifying period (this will include moving to different roles unless they are substantially different). Absence from work will however suspend the qualifying period; for example, in cases of sickness absence (up to 28 weeks), annual leave, jury service (up to 28 weeks) or where there is a cessation in the need of the agency worker. Where an agency worker is absent due to statutory or contractual; maternity leave, paternity leave or adoption leave or for example absent due to illness relating maternity the qualifying period still accrues during their absence.

Businesses that are considering avoiding their duties under the AWR; for example, by moving an agency worker to substantially different roles to interrupt the accrual of the qualifying period are forewarned that a Tribunal is able to make an additional award of up to £5000 if the AWR is breached.

Agency workers are entitled to access to any relevant employment vacancies from the start of their appointment as if they were a permanent employee. This can be achieved by way of a general announcement but the business must make sure that the agency worker can access such information. Agency workers are also entitled to access to on-site facilities from the start of their assignment such as onsite canteens, child care facilities or the provision of transport

If you have any questions about issues raised in this newsletter, please contact us on telephone number: 01279 639442

services (this would not extend to season ticket loans).

Agency workers will be able to make a claim in a Tribunal should a business fail to comply with the AWR. The normal timeframe to make a claim will be within 3 months from the date the infringement or detriment occurred.

From the 1st October the hourly minimum wage rates increased as follows:

From £5.93 to £6.08 if aged 21 and over

From £4.92 to £4.98 if aged 18-20

From £3.64 to £3.68 if aged 16/17

The apprentice minimum wage increased from £2.50 to 2.60 per hour.

Where to look for job?

To find the job you need to look at your skills and the type of job you want to do. You then need to plan how you will go about looking for it.

Jobcentre Plus advisers can tell you about jobs in your local area and in other places if you want. Once you find a job you're interested in, they will tell you how to apply. If possible, they will ring the employer there and then to arrange an interview or send you an application form. Harlow Jobcentre Plus, Crown Gate, Beaufort House, Harlow CM20 1NA

Recruitment agency - they specialise in delivering a temporary workforce to local industries. Once you start working on a contract as a temporary member of staff there may be the opportunity to become permanent, and work directly for the employer. You do not have to speak a lot of English to get a job, but the type of job you will be offered will depend on your language skills.

Local Newspapers

Harlow's local newspaper is The Harlow Star which advertises local jobs.

On the internet – there is lots of online services where you can look for job opportunities. Most recruitment companies advertise job vacancies online. There are currently around 1000 online job boards in the UK. To make sure you keep up with the latest vacancies, you will need to find ways of having access to the internet (local library). Having your own email address may be an advantage.

The UK Government is keen to ensure that migrant workers coming to the UK are of their rights and responsibilities. A leaflet "Know Your Rights" which sets out where to get help and advice can be found online or please ring our office.

Spangles Christmas Gathering

This year for the first time ISS together with Spangles Children Centre organized a Christmas Gathering for families with children from ethnic minorities' communities from Mountfitchet area.

The event featured delicious international food, which was prepared by parents and staff as well as the spontaneous sharing of Christmas traditions. Parents could share their recipes and we had festive activities for the children. This event has helped to build more close relationships be-



tween families, and help everyone to feel included and also a warm welcome for those who may be new to the UK and do not have any family or close friends to share this special time of the year.

The project at Spangles children centre will continue from January 3rd and we are encouraging mothers from migrant and other ethnic minorities in Mountfitchet area to participate and benefit from many opportunities that offers this project.

Joanna Hewelt
(Support Worker for ISS)



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Registered Charity No 1126609,
Company Ltd by Guarantee No 06308076,



A SureStart Children's Centre

Supporting the successful integration and settlement of migrants,
refugees and other ethnic minorities

Integration Support Services and Spangles Children's Centre

Drop in sessions

starts on 13th of September 2011

A fantastic opportunity to play and have fun with your children,
a multicultural environment where you can share experiences learn new things and
make friends.

**ART AND CRAFT, CULTURAL ACTIVITIES,
HEALTHY SNACKS AND A VERY WARM ATMOSPHERE**

Time: every Tuesday at 10:00am – 12:00pm

Venue: Spangles Children's Centre

Lower Street, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex CM24 8LR

If you need more information or you are interested in volunteering
please contact us: Joanna : 01279 639442 or Henriette: 01279812348





Immigration updates

Carer of a dependent British citizen

The Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) recently handed down judgment in the case of Ruiz Zambrano (C-34/09).

This judgement creates a right to reside and work for the sole carer of a dependent British citizen when that carer has no other right of residence in the UK and removing the carer from the UK would mean the British citizen would have to leave the European Union.

The UK Border Agency has been considering the effect of this judgment and whether any changes are required to our policy or the law as a result. Until now UK BA has not accepted applications they received on this basis as there is currently no provision within the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 (the regulations) to issue documentation on this basis UK BA will amend the regulations in due course to enable a person to be issued with a document confirming that they have a right to live in the UK as a result of the Ruiz Zambrano judgment. However, in the meantime, UKBA will issue a certificate of application to those who are able to show evidence that the dependent national is a British citizen; evidence of the relationship between the applicant and the British citizen; and adequate evidence of dependency between the applicant and the British citizen. This certificate will enable a person to work in the UK while their application is outstanding. Once changes to the regulations are made, the application will be given full consideration and documentation will be issued under the regulations to those who meet the final agreed policy.

Changes to the student visa system on the 2nd November 2011 UKBA announce tough new rules.

New enforcement action to stop abuse of the student visa system mean that over 450 education providers will no longer be able to sponsor new international students. New UK Border Agency regulations have significantly raised the standards education providers must meet before they can bring international students to the UK. So far, over 400 colleges have lost their right to recruit international students after they failed to sign up for the new inspection system. As well as cutting abuse, the new standards will help ensure that genuine international students receive the highest quality education.

Further measures to tighten the student regime are due in April. The post study work route, which has allowed graduates free labour market access, will be closed and students wishing to stay and work will need to apply under the

skilled workers visa route. There will also be new time limits on student visas and tougher rules on work placements. In the mean time the UK Border Agency is continually monitoring the behavior of all sponsors and will take action against any that are not complying with standards of education provision or immigration control.

The minimum age for foreign spouse

Changes to the Immigration Rules have been laid in Parliament on 7 November 2011 to reinstate a minimum age of 18 for a spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same-sex partner and for their sponsor in order to qualify for entry clearance, leave to enter, leave to remain or a variation of leave on that basis. These rules come into effect on 28 November 2011.

UKBA proposals to deny entry or stay to migrants with NHS debt

Overseas visitors who fail to pay off their debts for NHS treatment will soon be denied permission to enter or stay in the UK, Immigration Minister Damian Green has announced.

Changes to the Immigration Rules were laid in Parliament today, meaning that those subject to immigration control who fail to settle an outstanding bill of £1,000 or more will not be allowed to enter or remain in the UK until the debt is paid off.

Possible changes to Life in UK test

Foreign nationals could soon have to take a test on British history before they are granted a UK passport after David Cameron set out moves to toughen up requirements for citizenship.

Proposal to Family application

Individuals applying to come to Britain for family reasons have to demonstrate that they can speak English, have the means to support themselves as well as genuine family links in Britain. Families who want to sponsor overseas relatives to settle in Britain will have to post a financial bond worth thousands of pounds. They will also need to provide evidence that the dependent national is a British citizen; evidence of the relationship between the applicant and the British citizen; and adequate evidence of dependency between the applicant and the British citizen.

This certificate will enable a person to work in the UK while their application is outstanding. Once changes to the regulations are made, the application will be given full consideration and documentation will be issued under the regulations to those who meet the final agreed policy.

Source: UKBA website

Changes to appeals against immigration and asylum decisions from 19 December 2011

This new policy reflects the government's view that users of the appeals system, who can afford to pay, should contribute to the system's cost. Fees of £80 for a paper consideration and £140 for an oral hearing will be applied to appeals against decisions taken on or after 19 December 2011.

The proposed fees are not set at full cost recovery, but only recover around 25 per cent of the full cost of administering the appeal system. The government considers that it is an appropriate balance between low, affordable fees which enable access to justice, and a meaningful contribution towards the costs of the Tribunal. Applicants who appeal decisions dated 19 December 2011 or later from outside the UK will be required to submit their appeals directly to the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) in Leicester and will no longer be able to send them to the visa application centre overseas that made the initial decision. Applicants who want to appeal a decision dated before 19 December 2011 from outside the UK are still able to send their appeal to the visa section that made the initial decision. A new online payment facility will be available shortly. This will allow applicants to make an appeal and payment online

for decisions dated from 19 December 2011. Appellants must be able to pay using a MasterCard or a Visa credit or debit card or be submitting an appeal which does not require a fee to be paid. Appellants can ask another person to pay the fee on their behalf using their payment card details, with their permission.

Extension of employment restrictions for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals

On 23 November 2011 Immigration Minister Damian Green announced that controls to restrict how Bulgarian and Romanian nationals access the UK labour market will be extended until the end of 2013. This means Romanian and Bulgarian (EU2) nationals seeking to work in the UK will continue to require permission from the UK Border Agency before they can work in the UK.

Permission to work will normally be given only where the worker has a specific job offer and the work is in skilled employment for which the employer has been unable to find a suitably qualified resident worker. There are also quota-based arrangements for lower skilled jobs in the agricultural and food processing sectors which will stay at the same level for 2012 and 2013.

Source: UKBA website

Trade Unions in Britain

Trade unions in Britain are collectively represented by the Trades Union Congress (TUC). With 58 affiliated unions representing 6.2 million working people from all walks of life. It campaigns for: decent pay and pensions; protecting jobs; the elimination of all forms of discrimination; health and safety improvements; protecting the vulnerable in society; international solidarity with workers worldwide.

Unlike other countries, the TUC is the only trade union confederation in Britain and is independent of employers, government and any political party. The TUC negotiates in Europe, and at home build links with political parties, business, local communities and wider society.

At a local level the TUC organises through Trades Union Councils. Trades Councils coordinate the activities of local union branches, campaign on TUC policies and act as a focus for communication with the local media.

Harlow Trades Union Council is keen to build trade union membership amongst migrant workers as an important step to combating attacks on pay and conditions against all workers.

The TUC publishes the "Worksmart" website: http://www.worksmart.org.uk/rights/migrant_workers which informs migrant workers of their rights and obligations whilst living and working in Britain. It supplies information to migrants in the following languages-Czech, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese and Slovak.

With many migrants working in agriculture, manufacturing and warehouse occupations the most appropriate trade union to join is Unite the Union. Unite publishes the Country Standard newspaper for their agricultural workers section. Unite has a section for unpaid workers and the unemployed with membership fees set low at £2.36p per month.

You can join Unite online at:

http://www.unitetheunion.org/my_unite__join_online/join_online.aspx

If you do not have access to the internet, you can obtain forms from the ISS office or Harlow Trades Union Council by contacting the Secretary, David Forman, on telephone number 0784 1144900.

David Forman

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AND DISPUTES

Informal meetings

2nd February, 1st March and 5th April

From 10 am to 12 pm
At Rainbow Building,
2 Wych Elm Harlow

Please ring our office for more Information:

01279 639442

BBC3 Documentary with ISS — A personal account

When I was first asked to feature in the BBC programme I was a bit apprehensive. I was not sure exactly how positively the work of ISS would be represented in the documentary and I also questioned whether I was the best person to feature in it. After consulting with a couple of board members at ISS I decided to participate in the documentary on the grounds that it could be a good way to publicise the great work that ISS does in Essex and parts of Hertfordshire.

I was unable to make the first day of filming due to other commitments but I met up with the group for the second trip to Clacton-on-Sea. On arriving for the trip I felt happy when I saw that the group being filmed was made up of people from different Central and Eastern European countries that represent some of the many nationalities that have migrated to the UK since 2004.

I enjoyed asking questions and learning about the different experiences each individual faced within the group. The group was made up of young people with very different hopes and aspirations and I think this came across well in the show. I felt that the documentary also captured, to a certain extent, some of the challenges that migrants face in the UK. This was particularly evident during my second day of filming when I learned that two members of the group had returned to their home countries having not found work.

On the whole I was happy with my experience filming for the documentary. I consider myself to be quite a reserved person and as such thought that I might find it quiet nerve-racking being recorded for TV. But this did not prove to be the case as I did not really notice when the cameras were recording.



Above shows Zak speaking with two of the young migrants featured in the programme 'Young Foreign and Over Here' BBC3

My only real disappointments about 'Young Foreign and Over Here' was that it did not really draw attention to how isolating and lonely a place England can seem to people who have migrated here with little or no family and friends around them. Nor did it highlight some of the extraordinary work ISS does to make migrants feel a lot more at home.

Zak Cochrane

Information Packs to make your life easier!

If you have just come to live in the Harlow or Epping Forest area and you need more information about schools, health and other local services we have an information pack.

This pack has been specially designed by Integration Support Services staff and partners to provide helpful practical information for those who have just come into the area. Further contents include wonderful places to visit with your family and children, what services are available, and most importantly contact telephone numbers. These packs can be posted to you in hard copy and also can be printed in a few other languages (subject to request). This request should be submitted in writing via our website. A small charge applies for posting as well as translating copies

For any help or support please give us a call from Monday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm on our main office number: 01279 639442 or email us on info@iss.org.uk

Black History Month

Black History Month proved to be a real success at Harlow Foyer. It was a great opportunity for ISS staff to come and inform and engage the young people at the foyer.

The ISS stand, run by Joanna, displayed a number of notable individuals of Black History. While the African hat making skills of ISS volunteer Abi provided a great opportunity for some of



the residents to experience West African dressing. Also featured were Caribbean dishes such as Ackee and Saltfish, Curried Goat, Rice and Peas and Beef Patties.

ISS joins Pitney Bowes in celebrating Multicultural Week

One of our partners, Pitney Bowes, celebrated a multicultural week on their premises between 3 and 6 October. ISS helped organize events to mark the occasion. Each day highlighted a different culture starting off with African Day followed by European Day, British Day and Asian Day.

Along with a rich display of history and local crafts each of these days also had special culture-specific performances such as - African hat making, drumming, Flamenco dance, Tai-Chi, Bollywood dance, Michael Jackson show and quiz. The employees were encouraged to join in and have a taste of the diverse cultures which make up the fabric of modern UK.

We hope the employees enjoyed the events as much as we enjoyed bringing it to them.



International Women's Day Coming soon!

Registered Charity No: 1120609
 Limited by Guarantee No: 06308078

ON SUNDAY 11 MARCH 2012
5.00 PM ONWARDS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
FUNDRAISING DINNER PARTY

Come along and join us for an evening of fun, excitement and great food as we celebrate Women's Day

- Raffles
- Quiz
- Dance
- And lots more.....

Ticket price
£12

AT
 Pink Spice, Commonside Road, Harlow CM18 7JB

FOR BOOKINGS SPEAK TO AN ISS STAFF MEMBER
OR CALL: 01279 639442

*All proceeds from the event will go towards our ISS emergency fund

ISS Christmas Party

We organised a Christmas party for our clients with children as we do every year during December. This time we decided to make it even more exciting.



Thanks to our partner The Salvation Army we had a wonderful party for children with a disco, a lot of games and fun.

After that we took everyone

on a magical wonderland walk to Santa's Grotto where the

children got to meet Santa and receive their special gift. There were over 20 beautifully animated scenes, Santa was fantastic and children could choose from a variety of gifts.



Everyone was really pleased with ISS's Christmas Adventure.

One parent had this to say:

"It is a very special time of year and it was really good to be able to attend such an event together with other migrant families, being way from home at this time of year is very difficult but celebrating with others makes things much easier."

We would like to say a big thank you to all who helped on the day and special thank you to The Salvation Army for their kindness and support.

The Salvation Army's kind donation to ISS following their carol concert

It has been our privilege to work in partnership with the Integration Support Service on a number of levels.

Firstly, The Salvation Army has joined with ISS in a partnership scheme called The Lydia Project, where we are pleased to provide a venue and support to the Polish classes for children. Each Monday evening the students come along to the centre in Tendring Road, Harlow for an hour's lesson and their parents wait in the Fellowship Lounge where tea and coffee is available. The Salvation Army also provided the venue for the children's Christmas. A good time was had by all.

Working in partnership is a wonderful opportunity that opens doors and creates opportunities otherwise that may not exist.

On Sunday 11 December The Salvation Army held its annual carol concert where among the 194 people gathered represen-



tatives from ISS were also present to support it. CEO MIMOZA Matoshi spoke briefly about the work of ISS and received a cheque from the Commanding Officer Major Paul Holifield for £217, being the afternoon's collection.. Major Holifield said, "We look forward to 2012 to see what further opportunities there may be for our partnership".

The Lydia Project

From 7 of November 2011 ISS has been working in partnership with The Salvation Army, Harlow to provide Polish classes for children in Harlow and surrounding areas. Our highly qualified teacher Eva supports children 5-12 years old with reading and writing skills. Also the sessions are designed to help the communication and social skills and also encourage children and parents to interact with each other and learn from different experiences.



Parents are also supported with practical help and guidance to deal with any issues they face while in Harlow. The project will continue during 2012 and due to its demand may be expanded in other venues such as Abbotswold School. If you want to know more about this project, book a place for your child or would like to get involved as a volunteer please give us a call on 01279 639442 and will be happy to discuss this with you.

We celebrated Bonfire Day differently this year...



As a part of ISS's integration and information programme, a visit to the local fire station was organised on 5 November 2011. The fire-fighters enthusiastically showed our children around. We were treated to a demonstration of how the fire-fighters get ready to deal for an emergency call. We saw the protective clothing that is used and how they store their boots and equipments ready to jump into action when the siren sounds. All the parents had a chance to hear about fire safety at home and also had the opportunity to ask questions. Later all children enjoyed taking a closer look at the fire engines. It was a really nice and educational experience.

Saturday Club at The Treehouse Children's Centre



ISS organises family group sessions at the Tree House Children Centre every Saturday 10.30 am-2.30 pm in partnership with Sure Start centre. From its start in 2005 it has been a very successful project. Each week we support more and more families coming from different parts of the world. At the moment around 30 families with children attend Sure Start Centre on a weekly basis. This session includes stay

and play, arts and craft activities, snack and lunch for children as well as information and advice for parents and clients. With the help of volunteers occasional events are organised such as our annual Christmas party, Halloween, Easter, Valentine's Day, trips and many more.

Halloween Party

In an effort to get our clients to participate with the local community ISS held a Halloween party at the Tree House Children Centre. Each child dressed up in costumes ranging from skeletons and witches to pumpkins. The Centre was decorated for the occasion. There were lots of arts and craft activities for the children to participate in. They particularly enjoyed pumpkin making and 'pass the pumpkin' game.



A happy ISS Client writes:


My name is Moonira Matululu, I would like offer my story on how ISS has been so helpful to me and my children.

I heard about the ISS services over 2 year ago, I approached them because at that time I desperately need some advice on my immigration issues, which they helped me with. Soon after this I offered to be a volunteer with ISS because I was so amazed with the work they were doing to the community and also to migrants. At first I volunteered with the ladies group which was meeting every Friday in Chigwell, and I then started volunteering at the Saturday family club in Loughton, and this was great, my kids loved it, I got to meet other families who told me how happy and helpful the Saturday meetings were.

My family and I had never been on a holiday. ISS helped me fill out the forms for the Family Holiday Association and my kids and I enjoyed a lovely holiday.

Later, ISS helped me to find employment, they gave me the work experience I needed and I have now been offered full time employment. I am so grateful for the organisation's support.

I am amazed with the work ISS is doing, the passion they have to help the community and bringing out the best in people's lives.

integration support services  CABLESHEER GROUP  L&O

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES

When: Every Tuesday 9:30-11.30

Where:
Limes Farm Junior School Limes Avenue,
Chigwell IG7 5LP

Free Childcare Provided

Contact Integration Support Services for more details
and to book your place

01279 639442 or phone Joanna 07775955982
Joanna@iss.org.uk

ISS Trustee Cliff Moore



I came to Harlow in 1980 and like most strangers to a new place felt a bit lost. I got myself involved in the local community which soon changed new neighbours into friends.

I have been involved since that time in various local organisations including local charities, social enterprises and co-operatives.

I was especially honoured to be asked to be a trustee for the newly created charity that became ISS.

Integration Support Services helps newcomers to the Town – and these days in a wider geographic area as well.

The core values of self help and good neighbourliness which so impressed me about this place is one that is echoed daily in the work of this fine organisation.

A poem by Simon Vogel

Harlow has changed
I used to find it
Amazingly boring
There is now
New opportunity
Immigration
Has created diversity
People came here to work
And it thrives
With possibility
Faith has sprung up
Around our community
Folk are drawn here
And this is my measure
I was born
Inside a treasure
Black and white
Young and old
Are full
Of positive action
There is no dissatisfaction
There is colour in our shops
There is brightness in our malls
There is variety in our food
There is music, there is art
Participation is everywhere
Its bounty for us all to share
To startle us, to start us
In our daily lives
Each day
Forever new
The whole town thrives

Can you be a Trustee for ISS?

Rewarding Voluntary Position Expenses paid

As part of our expansion across Essex and Hertfordshire we are looking to appoint new trustees to our board who will bring us their skills in one or more of the following areas: public relations, marketing, fundraising, advocacy.

You would attend at least one Management Committee Meetings per month lasting around two hours, one AGM, and one Away Day.

For further information, or to apply please email:
info@iss.org.uk.

Alternatively you can find out more
about us on

www.iss.org.uk

Special Multicultural Calendar 2012

Date	Event	Faith
1 January	New Year's Day	Secular (Bank Holiday)
5 January	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib	Sikh
14 January	Makar Sankranti	Hindu
23 January	Chinese New Year	Chinese
3 March	Hina-Masuri	Shinto
8 March	Holi	Hindu
8 March	International Women's Day	Worldwide
18 March	Mothering Sunday	Christian/Secular
20 March	Nowruz (Iranian New Year)	Iran
23 March	Ugadi (Hindu New Year)	Hindu
6 April	Good Friday	Christian Bank Holiday
7 April (continues to 14th)	Passover	Jewish
8 and 9 April	Easter Sunday and bank holiday Monday	Christian
13 April	Vaisaki	Sikh
5 May	Wesak/Buddha Day	Buddhist
19 June	Father's Day	Christian/Secular
1 July	Asala/Dharma Day	Buddhist
20 July	Ramadan	Muslim
2 August	Rasksha Bandhan	Hindu
19 August (continues to 21st)	Eid-ul-fitr	Muslim
11 September	Ethopian New Year	Rastafari
17 September	Rosh Hoshanah	Jewish
26 September	Yom Kippur	Jewish
16 October (continues to 23rd)	Sharad Navrati	Hindu
26 October	Eid-ul-Adha	Muslim
11 November	Armistice Day	Secular
13 November	Diwali	Hindu
9 December	Hannukah	Jewish
25 December	Christmas Day	Christian

Editorial Note: If we have missed any important festivals please accept our apologies and do let us know—Thank you

SCHEDULE JANUARY TO MARCH 2012

ACTIVITY	VENUE	Day/Time
Outreach/Support Consultation and advice (Harlow, Epping Forest and Uttlesford)	Across Harlow, Epping Forest and Uttlesford area (suitable venue can be arranged prior to the appointment)	Monday to Saturday By appointment, please ring our office or 07775 955982
Saturday activities for families with Children (Harlow)	The Tree House Children's Centre Staple Tye Harlow CM18 7NG	Saturdays 10.30 am—2.30 am
Translation and interpreting service (please note that this is a chargeable Service)	2 Wych Elm Harlow CM20 1QT or where needed	As needed. Please contact our office
Drop in sessions (Harlow)	Harlow Office 2 Wych Elm Harlow CM20 1QT	Thursdays 10 am—2 pm
International Women's Day Celebrations FUND-RAISING DINNER PARTY	Pink Spice Commonside Road Harlow CM18 7JB	Sunday 11th of March 5pm—10pm
ESOL Classes For beginners to learn and improve English Crechè is also available prior to booking (Epping Forest area)	Limes Farm Junior School Limes Avenue Chigwell IG7 5LP	Please contact our office for more details Every Tuesday 9.30 am to 11.30 am
Family Drop In session (Mountfitchet)	Spangles Children's Centre Lower Street Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8LR	Tuesdays 10 am - 12 pm
The Lydia Project Polish Classes for children (West Essex)	The Salvation Army Tendering Road Harlow	Mondays 5pm—6pm

Our thanks also go to our funders, partners and supporters among whom are:



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT We are very grateful to Pitney Bowes for their valued help in the production of this newsletter.