

BARTON HILL
ASIAN WOMEN'S GROUP
REPORT
1992 - 1993



INTRODUCTION

Barton Hill Asian Women's Group was established in the summer of 1986 and meets at Barton Hill Settlement. Since then we have set up three groups- the Young Mothers' Group, the Elderly Women's Group and the Young Women's Group. The women take part in many activities, while at the same time keeping within the guidelines of their beliefs and customs. Each group has a self-support aspect because the women can give each other confidence and social contact in an environment which is fairly well isolated from male intrusion.

The groups also provide a forum for discussion and greater opportunity and understanding between different generations of women.

Regular subsidised trips for the groups are arranged and enjoyed. Our group employs a part-time coordinator, two creche workers, four workers with the elderly, a youth worker, a driver and has several volunteers. Membership is constantly growing and at present we have over one hundred members. All three projects meet at Barton Hill Settlement where facilities are provided to meet the needs of the different groups, for example there is childcare provision, disabled access, etc. This environment also provides access to other independent projects which are based at the Settlement like the Advice Centre, Bristol Community Transport, Inner City Employment Training Centre, etc.

Since 1986 we have been funded by Bristol Women's Committee, Avon Community Leisure, Avon Social Services, Bristol Race Equality Committee, the Greater Bristol Trust, Eras GWR and various other Trusts without whose support we could not have achieved our objectives. We also do a lot of fundraising ourselves by exploiting our culinary talents, holding raffles, making and selling garments, etc.

Finally we would especially like to thank all the Barton Hill Settlement staff and volunteers for their support and cooperation.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIR

PARVEEN AKHTAR

VICE CHAIR

GULSHAN NAZEER

TREASURER

TABASSAM AZIZ

SECRETARY

YASMIN SAGHEER

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

AMINA BIBI
WALAAT BEGUM
ZAHEDA ANWAR
NAHID KAUSER
SHAZIA SHABNAM
NARGIS MAJID

STAFF

CO-ORDINATOR

ZEHRA HAQ

ELDERLY WORKERS

RAZIA KHOKHAR
SHANAAZ BUKHAR
SAJIDA PARVEEN
RASHIDA HUSSAIN

CRECHE WORKER

SHAHINA HAMID

YOUNG WOMEN'S WORKER

FARHANA YASMIN

DRIVER

SHAMIM AKHTAR

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

For the past five years, as Chair of Barton Hill Asian Women's Group, I have seen a lot of changes.

We started off as a small group fulfilling the needs of few women, but now, not only have we expanded our membership but also our services.

We offer support to Asian women of all ages, bridging the generation gap and developing mutual respect and trust. We continue to network closely with other similar Asian women's groups in Bristol.

In these last years we have encouraged more of our members to get involved in running their groups and represent the organisation on various other committees.

We have set up courses and other training to help women build their self-confidence and skills to seek employment within and outside their organisation.

Demand for support has often outstripped the resources we have been able to provide and I am grateful to the staff and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the group, especially Zehra Haq, our Co-ordinator, who continues to work hard to ensure that support and advice to our members are maintained.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all members in our groups, my colleagues on the Management Committee, our many friends in the community and our funders, Bristol City Equalities and Development Committee, Avon Community Leisure and Social Services committees for their continued support in working together in partnership to provide the services.

Chairperson

CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

I have now been with the Barton Hill Asian Womens Group for seven years. During this time I have seen incredible changes. The group has achieved most of it's tasks we had set ourselves for the year: to involve women who are isolated in participating in the running of their projects, secure employment within and outside their groups, networking with other similar groups, locally and nationally, sharing ideas and information and, most important of all, representing their group on various other committees and meetings.

The past year has seen a growth in the range of training, advice and support we offer to the women and this has helped boost their self confidence in helping them achieve their ambitions, whether in paid or voluntary work. Also, over the years membership of the group has grown and the range of services we provide has also increased dramatically.

The demand for services from the public we serve is increasing all the time and staff are getting over-stretched.

It is hard to make predictions about the future of the group. Funding is uncertain and insufficient to meet the very many needs. What is obviously required is stable funding base and some clear and hard thinking about the future needs of the group.

There is a potential to develop many other new services but what is lacking is the money! Funders expect to see more results from less money.

Further work with the elderly has involved the setting up of a sitting service for carers which is now at the advanced planning stage and is one of our likely future innovations. This is being funded by a grant from the Social Services.

The expansion of our services and their high quality is due to the dedication and commitment of the Barton Hill Asian Womens Group staff and management members. We are also very fortunate to have a number of very willing volunteers who give freely of their own time and commitment to help our work in the group and in the community.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Parveen Akhtar who, as Chair throughout these years, has been an inspiration to me and all in the group. My thanks also to all the staff, volunteers and committee members for their patience and support throughout the year.

WORKING WITH THE ELDERLY

Based at the Barton Hill Day Centre, the Womens Only Day caters for our Asian elders once a week, providing a range of activities which includes keep fit, flower arranging, discussions on various health matters, conversation, entertainments etc.

An Asian warm meal is available. We provide transport for our members to and from the Centre. Local outings are arranged to a variety of venues, for example the garden centre, the Galleries in Broadmead, Chew Valley etc.



A keep fit activity session.



A day out for the elderly.

YOUNG MUM'S GROUP

The Young Mum's Group continue to meet twice a week at the Settlement on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm.

Tuesday 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm - Literacy/Computer Classes

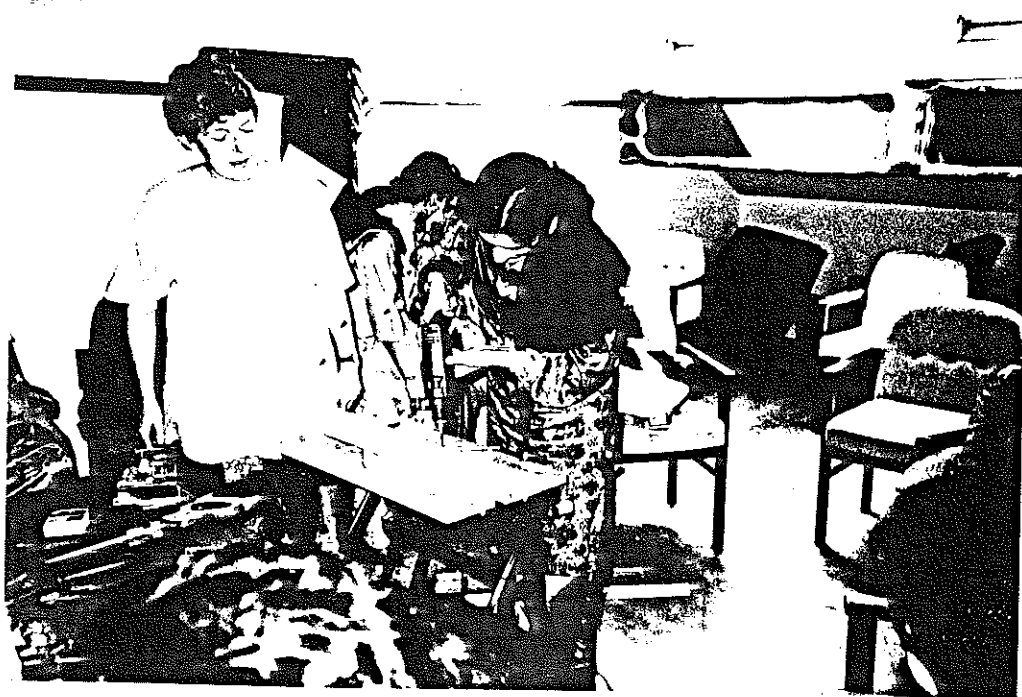
The aim is to provide the women with a second foundation in English and develop their skills in reading, writing and coping with the everyday tasks for which reading and writing are required.

Also this year, we have started beginners classes in computer training. The word processing package runs through English, Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic and Bengali.

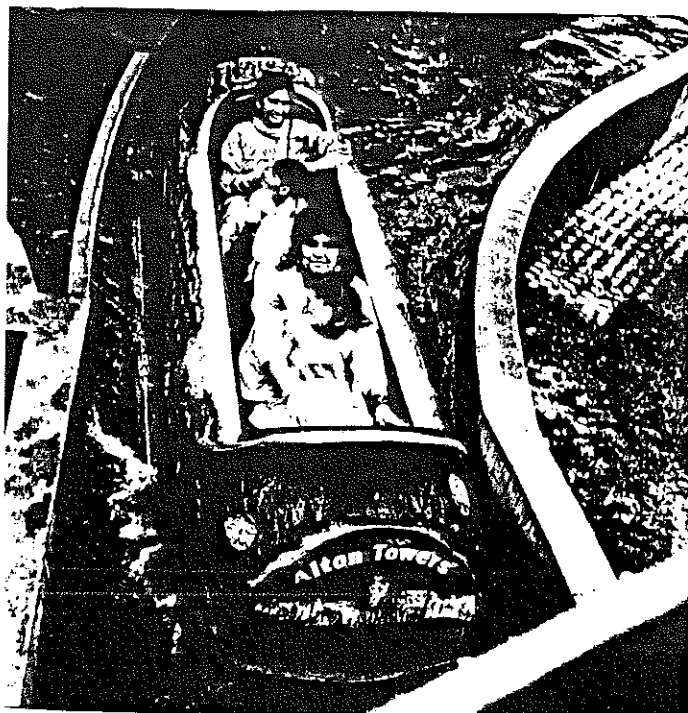


Thursday 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm - a Variety of Activities

In the last year, the group has organised a lot of activities which includes pottery, keep-fit, visits from outside speakers, photography and discussions around a number of issues. This helps to increase the womens' self confidence by providing an opportunity to get out of the house, meet other women for support and try new ideas and practice skills.



Regular family outings are arranged and are very successful. Transport and creche are provided on both days.



YOUNG WOMEN'S GROUP

The Young Women's Group has gone from strength to strength and continue to meet once a week on Sunday at the Settlement. Here they are encouraged to meet, share experiences, support each other and participate in the various activities on offer in a relaxed and safe environment. Activities include photography, self-defence, cookery, sewing, sports etc.

We target at girls and young women aged between 12 and 22.

Sunday 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm.



Asian Girl's
Group cooking.

Learning how to sew.

