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Centro 25 de Abril
Portuguese Community Centre

Annual Report
1989-90



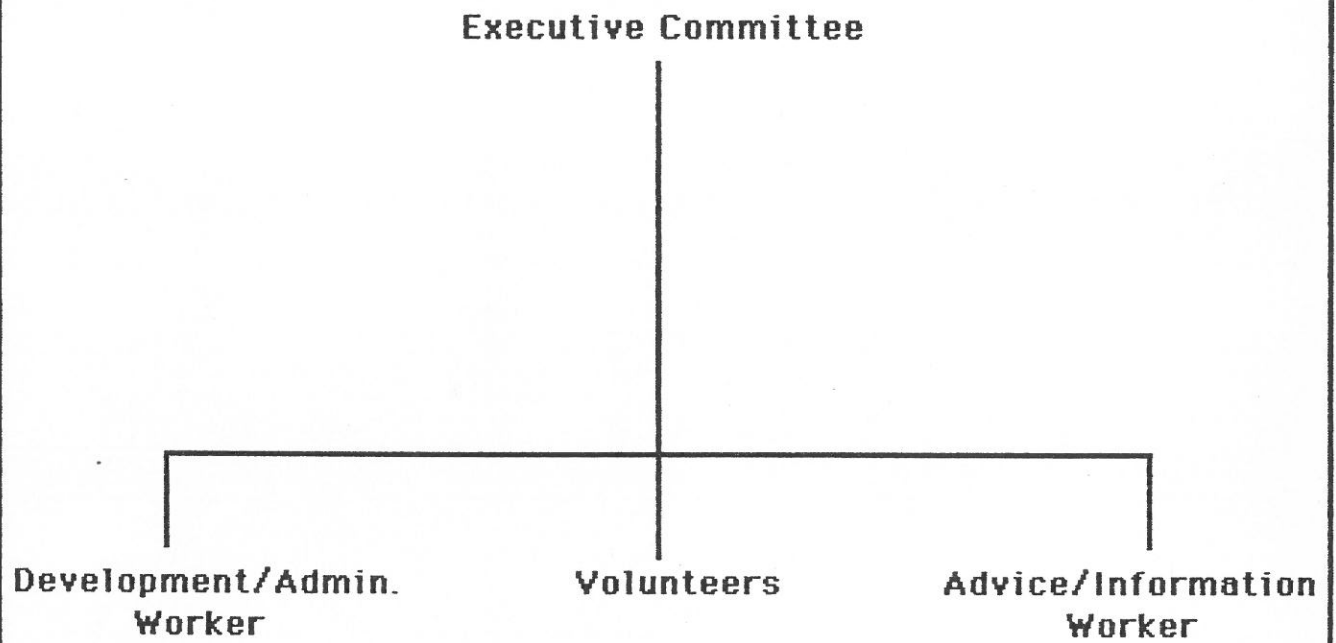
The Portuguese Community Centre

The Portuguese Community Centre is a registered charity nº 2252962 and a "Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital" under the Companies Act 1985.

According to its constitution, the Portuguese Community Centre, has as its aims and objectives:

- I- a) To promote the benefit of the Portuguese people living in Greater London and in particular in North Kensington, and to improve the condition of life of such people without disction of race, sex, or religious or political belief.
 - b) To establish a neighbourhood centre and to maintain and manage such a centre for activities promoted by the Portuguese Community Centre and its members in furtherance of the objects of the organisation.
 - c) To advance the education and training of the said people.
 - d) To improve the housing and employment conditions of the said people.
 - e) To promote the establishment of facilities for the social welfare and for leisure time occupation of the said people.
- II- In furtherance of the above objects and without prejudice, the organisation may:
- a) Employ staff
 - b) Obtain, collect and receive money and any property real and personal by way of contributions, donations, legacies, grants and other lawful methods.
 - c) Do all other things incidental or conducive to the attainment of any the above objects, as the Management Committee shall determine.'

Management structure



The Executive Committee

During the year 1989/90, the following persons have contributed towards the organisation's decisions and running in an Executive Committee capacity:

President: **Fernando de Sousa**

Vice-President: **Agostinho Silva**

Secretary: **Maria Afonso**

Treasurer: **Fernanda Oliveira**

Other Members: **Luís Esteves**
Antonio Costa
Maria de Sousa
Carlos Fortuna
Fernando Rodrigues
Isaura Soares
Dália Neves
Helena Conhita
Américo Costa
Maria Costa

The Staff

Development/Admin. Worker: **Dorinda Moreira**

Advice/Information Worker: **Teresa Silva**

Volunteers

Fernando Rodrigues - Portuguese Community Centre Stall Holder,
Portobello Market, Saturdays.

António Costa/Luís Esteves - Amenities

António Costa - Video Library

Isaura Soares - Catering

Elisa Costa - Catering

Maria de Sousa - Catering

Helena Conhita - Catering

Dália Neves - Catering

Manuel Brandão - Library

Postas

*Es. Leves
A.M. Costa
Carlos Fortunato*

Funding Sources

We would like to give our most sincere thanks to the funding bodies listed below. Without their understanding of the difficulties faced by organisations such as ours, our work would have not taken place:

-The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

-? Banco

-? Community Trust (Small grants)

Past funders include:

-Commission For Racial Equality

-The World Council Of Churches

-Greater London Council

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The Work Of The Centre

Community and Policy Development have to be carried out as an ongoing activity and therefore evaluating achievements in a given period of time may not be as precise as desired.

Nevertheless, we have, during the year 1989-90, learned how to use measurements and indicators to evaluate our ongoing activities and hope that for next year we can put this learning into practice.

Administration/Development Work

During the reporting year, the Administration/Development Worker undertook a variety of duties which can be listed as follows:

1. Basic Administration

Inquiry and Information service
Ordering and restocking essential stationery
Preparing mailshots for forthcoming events
Contribution to and typing of newsletters
Maintenance of insurance policy
Preparation of handouts and posters for forthcoming events

2. Events

Regular yearly events as follows:

- "Festa 25 de Abril", to celebrate the 25th. April revolution in 1974. This includes a children's drawing competition.
- "Day of Portugal, Camões (National Poet), and the Communities Abroad". Organised in conjunction with other Portuguese organisations.
- "Festa dos Santos Populares", to celebrate the Popular Saints of Portugal.
- Summer programme including beach outings, picnics, fruitpicking, etc.

Associação

- pool league Centre Associação popular de dança e música

- Annual lunch
- Lambada Party
- Christmas Party
- Portuguese Carnival

- outros regulares (Dance nights)
- video works 2 days

3. Projects

- E.S.L. classes (two per week). This involves regular liaison with Hammersmith & North Kensington A.E.I.
- Kensington and Chelsea Education Consultative Committee for Black and Ethnic Minority Communities. Attendance at meetings and reporting back to the Centre's Management Committee.
- Liaison with Raj Jogia, B.C.R.'s C.R.O. to provide current information on issues relevant to the community.
- Notting Hill Social Council - member of N.H.S.C. Executive Committee.
- Translation work:
 - Race Equality and The Education Act
 - Portuguese Language spelling reforms
 - Education in the 90's
- Survey/Questionnaire - continuation of the project taking it through its practical phase of collecting information from the identified sample group. This involved door-to-door canvassing over a period of about twelve months.
- Library reorganisation; indexing and cataloguing of the Centre's library facilities with a member of the Management Committee.
- Migrants Day - this festival was organised, once again, in conjunction with the West London Migrants Unit and held on the 8th. October 1989 at the Tabernacle. The Portuguese community participated with a dance group, handycrafts display, information stalls and Portuguese regional food.
- Drop-in literacy classes - this project was publicised in our newsletters. It was to encourage informal literacy classes either at the Hammersmith &

North Kensington AEI or at the Portuguese Centre, but it was abandoned due to a lack of interest.

- Keep fit classes for the young and the elderly - this project was initiated during the reporting year. Three objectives were defined. Firstly, the location of a suitable site for the classes, secondly, finding a properly qualified teacher for our client groups and thirdly obtaining the appropriate funds. All three objectives were met. The Trust For London funded a one year's project held at Portobello Green Sports Centre.

Information and Advice Service

For the period between April 1989 and April 1990, the Portuguese Community Centre received 589 requests for advice and information.

The Advice & Information Service was used by 189 clients. Some of the recorded visits received advice and information only, but a large number related to new problems which required casework to resolve and for which new files were opened.

A large number of enquiries concerned giving advice & information and only required verbal translation and explanation of information sent by the Council and the completion of forms relating to the Community Charge rebate. There was also a large number of immigration and job-searching enquiries, especially from clients recently arrived in the U.K.

The majority of translations recorded were verbal translations, but we also translated information for the North Kensington Law Centre, Housing Action Centre and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

As in previous years, we have tried to make sure that everyone who contacted us got the information they needed. A large number of cases needed expert follow-up and were thus referred to the appropriate agencies. Often, even when cases were referred to other agencies, we maintained direct contact with the client as these cases frequently needed interpreting help.

The Interpreting Service was used on 75 occasions - these included interpreting on the telephone for other agencies. However, the majority of occasions involved the presence of the interpreter at meetings with social workers, health workers, doctors, solicitors and advice workers from other

organisations.

The Advice Worker has maintained good working links with other local organisations involved in advice work (Law Centres, CABs, HAC and Pensioners Link) mainly due to the frequent need for expert advice and by acting as an interpreter.

Statistics:

Contributory Benefits -----	36
Non-Contributory Benefits -----	31
Housing Benefit -----	52
Housing (general) -----	41
Employment -----	63
Health -----	23
Immigration -----	42
Education -----	16
Poll Tax -----	72
Translations -----	51
Interpreting -----	75
Various -----	160

