

Former Jagonari Women's Centre, 183-185 Whitechapel Road

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1984-7, Women's Educational Resource Centre, Matrix Feminist Design Co-operative, architects | Part of Jagonari Centre (/map/site/45/)

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Jagonari Centre timeline

Contributed by Survey of London (/map/user/2/content/) on April 17, 2018

This timeline has been taken from the 'Jagonari Story' book. This was put together in 2012 to celebrate 25 years of the centre's work; the book was never published but has a wealth of information and pictures. The Jagonari centre closed down in 2015 due to external factors.

Jagonari Timeline

1982 – The idea for a Bengali women's resource centre emerged

1983 – Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) was to fund such a resource centre with a planned £1m to be used within Tower Hamlets. Application was made to Greater London Council (GLC), ILEA and Tower Hamlets Inner Area Project (THIAP) for the provision of facilities and workers. A constitution was drawn up and the name ‘Jagonari’ emerged, meaning ‘Women Awake’. The first application for funding came through from the Spitalfields Project for £860

1984 – A consortium formed of seven local groups to apply to the GLC for the conversion of a disused school building on Whitechapel into a community centre. THIAP granted £8,400. However the opportunity to use an empty plot of land owned by the GLC arose for the construction of a new building.

1985 – Two open days were held to inform local women of the progress and generate interest in Jagonari. A donation of £300 was received from the Police Authority. A grant of £609,900 was received from GLC to develop the Jagonari centre; Matrix, an all-women group of architects was appointed.

1986 – After many meetings and adjustments to the initial plans the centre was built. A traditional copper coin and a leaf from a Yew tree were laid in place under the last stone to be placed on the roof. Funding of £26,219 was secured from the Commission of Race Equality (CRE) for a development workers salary and running cost for the current year. Several charities and trusts pledged financial support and grant applications were made for THIAP, ILEA and several others.

1987 – The completion of the building was at the end of June, and was handed over in July.

14th October was the first open day, this event was a successful day and the staff and management committee showed off the outcome of five years of their planning and vision.

One of the most important events of this year was the conference on The Home Affairs Select Committee Reports on “Bangladeshi’s in Britain”. The women’s workshop attempted to break through the stereotype of “women’s issues” being

discussed in this forum and advocated radical changes, involving men who would be instrumental in these changes.

Save the children Fund took over the crèche and provided a crèche co-ordinator and two crèche assistants.

The newly established East London Asian family counselling deliver their services from the centre

1990 – A three year strategy report was launched to attract funding from traditional funders and local business establishments. The report included Jagonari's future aims and objectives, and also retaining the uniqueness of the centre. Two recommended projects were a childcare project and homework sessions.

1991 – Task force exit strategy included funds of up to £95,000 towards Jagonari's core cost.

One of the aims of the three year strategy was to extend contact with employers, sponsors and supporters so that Jagonari's innovations could be supported and replicated elsewhere.

Space is also rented out as a source of income and to maximise the benefits to the community. An Arts and craft fair was held by youth workers and local young girls to raise funds for Bangladesh Cyclone appeal. Total raised was £1,200

Holding of other conferences, meetings and functions has not only generated income for Jagonari but has also increased Jagonari's profile, and increased the number of women that use the centre

1997 – The Health action zone was launched at the centre, the Rt Hon Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health opened the event

1998 – This year saw an amazing reversal of fortune for Jagonari. The previous year had ended with Jagonari successfully clearing its historical deficit

Jagonari also hosted an event for International Women's day where 200 women attended

2002 – Recruitment of Children Centre co-ordinator

Recruitment of Interim Director Hanifa Kaabaa

Interim Director Hi Chup Yap

The Girl Project organised and visited the Bangladesh Trade Fair and Woburn Safari park and was working in conjunction with Mouth That Roars organisation and NSPCC as part of their film making project

2003 – New Director Nurjahan Khatun was appointed in August

Jagonari playhouse is registered with Ofsted

Playhouse opened

2005 – Ground breaking cycling club project was launched

Healthy expression for older women – Yoga and Tai Chi

Older women's project

Secured first large funding of £195,000 from London Learning Skills Council for ESOL and Employability, "mohila" meaning "women". Delivered steps towards employability for 120 women, 36 women successfully secured diploma in IT Level

3

Secured first large scale funding of £86,000 from Local Area Partnership 2 for a Healthy project

Supermodel Elle McPherson, UNICEF ambassador visited Jagonari for the launch of the Breastfeeding Centre

Working with Action Aid on Reflect – DIY project with young girls.

2006 – Jagonari cycling project in the Time Newspaper

Secured first large scale capital funding of £197,000 to refurbish Jagonari including lift enabling disabled access

2007 – College of East London Haringey join Jagonari

2008 – Secured first public sector contract of £380,000 from Tower Hamlets Council for the delivery of a Sure Start contract

Merge with Wapping Women Centre and the Jagonari Centre; it is now known as Jagonari the heart of the community. The centre overlooks predominantly Bangladeshi residence

As well as accommodating over 300 women and their families per year through activities and projects, the centre manages one of the first community gardens in Tower Hamlets and had over 30 members.

Successful Jagonari Children Centre launch

Secured first place in the Boroughs Tower Hamlets training award ceremony

2009 – Jagonari Play zone secures 'good' in Ofsted inspection

2010 – One Stop Shop set up in Jagonari

Secured first direct European integration funding of £106,000 for the resettling of 3rd country nationals: Women Empower project is launched

Women Ahead Project is started

2011 – Secured and Ofsted ‘good’ in the Jagonari Playhouse

Propriety status of Jagonari resolved with the Davenant Centre

Successful Launch of the Language Matters Conference

Secured second direct European Integration Funding of £155,000 for the resettling of 3rd country nationals: Launch of Positively Integrated Project in June

Secured first direct funding on Domestic Abuse

Minster of Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) came to Jagonari

Jagonari Women Ahead on Women’s Hour on BBC Radio 4

Shortlisted by the DWP for partnership work on Twist

Successful celebration of the Women Empowered Project

2012 – Jubilee celebration

Jagonari Wapping Women’s centre working in partnership with Graham Walker

June – Building positive building relationship

Corporate social responsibility- companies coming in to decorate Jagonari

September – Domestic Abuse Launch, We can end it campaign was launched, working in partnership with East London Mosque and men in Tower Hamlets

Nov – Social Enterprise launch New Patterns at Spitalfields Market

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