

HISTORY & SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Compiled by Sean Creighton, Agenda Services
Community, Cultural, Heritage & Organisational Projects

11 February 2009

INTRODUCTION

I am starting this newsletter to share information about the range of activities, networks and interests I am involved with. Agenda Services is my freelance name. I undertake community, cultural, heritage and organisational projects. I also run a small publishing imprint History & Social Action Publications. I hope that you find this issue informative and of use. If you do not want to receive future issues please email me on sean.creighton@btinternet.com with the title 'HSAE remove'. - Sean Creighton.

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MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATED TO OLAUDAH EQUIANO

Over 200 people attended Monday night's dedication in St, Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, of a memorial plaque to Olaudah Equiano (c.1745-97), the leading black abolitionist,. Equiano had been baptised at the Church in February 1759. While people waited for the start of the service the Church organist played the 'Trumpet Voluntary' by John Stanley (1712-86) and Handel's Organ Concerto in B flat. In the opening Bidding the Rector Rev Robert Wright quoting from Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights said that in dedicating the memorial, 'we remember all those who are still denied their liberty, and those who work to give the gift of freedom to all people.' Rev. Dr. Joel Edwards spoke about Equiano's Spirituality and his conversion to committed Christianity after his near death experience in the Arctic. Given the importance of Equiano's autobiographical book 'The Interesting Narrative ...' as part of his campaigning around the country, and its inspiration still today, Asher Hoyles read her powerful poem 'The Talking Book' which ends:

'That reading is a political act
I wish someone had've told me that
I wish I had've known of the sacrifices made
So that I could simply sit, turn the page.'

Jennette Arnold, the Chair of the Greater London Authority, read from Ephesians 4: 25-30 about putting away falsehood and speaking the truth. The Church Choir then sang Psalm 9:1-10 to music by John Goss (1800-80). Actor Burt Caesar read the passage from 'The Interesting Narrative...' about Equiano's experience of being put up for auction in a slave sale, and his critique of the policy of splitting up families. A summary of his life was then recounted by Vincent Carretta, Professor of English at the University of Maryland, whose researches have added so much more to our knowledge and understanding about Equiano. Before the formal Dedication by Rev Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, everyone sang 'Amazing Grace' the hymn penned by John Newton (1725-1807), the former slave trader turned priest and abolitionist, set to music by the American John Rees (1828-1900). The London Seventh-Day Adventist Male Voice choir sang 'Magnify, Rejoice' by George Frederick Root (1820-95).

There were then prayers including for the abolition of the slave trade and slavery, the activists in the abolition movement, to Equiano, and 'For the Africans whose names we do not know, who risked everything in pursuit of freedom and justice...', and to those 'who endure modern forms of slavery.' The final prayer read by Sentamu was 'for those who work for peace in the word, especially for those who work to redress the legacies of slavery, those committed to the work of healing and reconciliation among individuals and communities; for the eradication of prejudice and discrimination, so that all men, women, and children may be set free to live in security, and with dignity.' A minute's silence was followed by the Lord's Prayer, after which the congregation sang 'Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven'. The music ended with the Adventist Choir singing 'Ye Gates' by Andrew Thomson (1814-1901) arranged by Amzi Clarence Dixon (1854-1925). Afterwards people stayed to look at the plaque, take photographs of it, and chat to those they knew. The plaque and the event was organised with the support of the Equiano Society.

Note: In October 1830 Dr Andrew Thomson, of St. George's Edinburgh, the author of 'Ye Gates' spoke to 2,500 people for two and a half hours in the Edinburgh Assembly Rooms arguing why the abolition movement should move from gradual to immediate emancipation. The speech was subsequently published.

THE SOLDIER WHO WASN'T

Totally unexpectedly on Monday morning a book arrived in the post: *The Soldier Who Wasn't. The Wartime Autobiography of Charles J. Keating*, published in 1995 by Union Street Press, Baltimore. It is the story of growing up as a working class boy (born 1918) and young man in Battersea, his wartime experiences, and his early married life. He went to Shillington St elementary school and then Battersea Central School. He became an amateur boxer locally and then in the forces. After the War he went into engineering, emigrating with his wife and two sons to Canada and then the United States. His son Charles Keating became an actor, including performing with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Britain. His other son Anton practices law in Baltimore. The book is an enjoyable read and gives a frank and vivid account of the trials and tribulations of working class life in Battersea and the excesses of youth and young adulthood in the 1930s and 1940s. The book is available through secondhand booksellers on the Internet. The ISBN is 09635924-2-4. It was sent to me by Anton Keating because he has appreciated my writings on Battersea.

LAMBETH EVENTS

To 15 March. 11am-4pm. *Courage to Refuse* on Beaconsfield's Flatscreen. In the light of unfolding events in the Middle East in the New Year Beaconsfield is showing the 2006 Beaconsfield commission *Courage to Refuse* - a collaboration reflecting common artistic and humanitarian concerns within the Gallery's Beaconsfield network. *Courage to Refuse* fuses documentary footage from Jenin and Israel with a Hebrew transcription of the names of 638 refusenik members of the Israeli military. A sonic accompaniment offsets original sounds recorded in the Middle East. Flatscreen is a permanent feature programmed all year round with

new work from artists working in digital media. It allows the Gallery to react to new opportunities, encouraging debate and social interaction. Beaconsfield, 22 Newport Street, SE11 020 7582 6465. info@beaconsfield.ltd.uk; www.beaconsfield.ltd.uk

13-15 February. 2-6pm. David Cottrell: Aesthetic Distance. Observing British military operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, the artist has produced a series of photographs and videos focussing on the treatment and transport of casualties during a major Incident. Danielle Arnaud Contemporary Art, 123 Kennington Road, SE11. 020 7735 8292. www.daniellearnaud.com

14 February, 7.30pm. Lambeth Orchestra: Mendelssohn: Ov: Hebrides, Davidoff: Cello concerto No.2, Bruch: Adagio on Celtic Melodies and Dvorak: Symphony No.8. **Conductor:** Christopher Fifield. Cello: Leonid Gorokhov. All Saints Church, West Dulwich. **Tickets:** adults £10, concessions £8 and children £1, available on the door from 7.00. **Contact Orchestra Administrator on:** 07762 588979 or email admin@lambeth-orchestra.org.uk

16 February. 6.45pm. British Gardens in Art. Talk. Friends of Durning Library. Durning Library, 167 Kennington Lane, SE11.

17 February. 6pm-9pm . The Future of Stockwell. Stockwell Partnership Community Meeting to discuss the future of Stockwell and how local residents and organisations can get involved. Visit stalls and displays of local projects with opportunities to find out more and sign up for local groups and activities. See displays of the Future Stockwell Framework and Stockwell Neighbourhood Action Plan. **6.30pm.** Learn about what the Stockwell Urban II programme has achieved and how local people can help keep community action live in Stockwell! **7.45pm:** Hear about the proposed new Stockwell Neighbourhood Forums and how people can take part. A panel of speakers has been invited from Stockwell Partnership, Lambeth First and Lambeth Council to discuss new arrangements for Neighbourhood Forums, and for Neighbourhood Management and Community. **8.45pm:** A panel of Stockwell Partnership with all local Councillors invited to answer any questions. Free refreshments and live music. Stockwell Community Resource Centre, 1, Studley Road, SW4. Stockwell Partnership. www.stockwell.org.uk. info@stockwell.org.uk

24 and 25 February. 5-7.30pm. Consultation on Mayor of London's Proposed Cycle Hire Scheme in Lambeth's Bishops, Princes and Oval Wards (55 sites). **24 February** - Lilian Baylis College, 323 Kennington Lane, SE11. **25 February** - Johanna Primary School (Johanna Street, Lower Marsh SE1. Further details on: www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/roadusers/cycling/cycle-hire-scheme.

27 February to 15 March. Fridays-Sundays. Rose-red Empire. Launch of Iain Sinclair's book *Hackney, That Rose-Red Empire* is accompanied by an exhibition of artists and film-makers who are implicated in the book, or celebrated by it. Renchi Bicknell, Brian Catling, Susanna Edwards, Stephen Gill, Oona . Grimes, Emma Matthews, Jock McFadyen, Chris Petit, Emily Richardson, Sarah Simblet. Danielle Arnaud Contemporary Art (see above for contact details).

28 February. 1-5pm. "STOCKWELL MEMORIES" - a Free Local History Event for all the family. The YMCA, King George's House, 40 Stockwell Road. Exhibits of old maps, photographs & documents. A local history book stall. A talk on how to research your house history. Share your memories of the area. Bring your old photographs or documents for appraisal. Free light refreshments; and for the children: a professional children's story teller and drawing and painting with a professional artist. Organised by Stockwell Village Association. For more details, contact: event@stockwellvillage.org

3 March. 6pm. Community/Police Consultative Group for Lambeth monthly meeting. Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall. The February meeting was cancelled due to the weather. Further details from Ben McKendrick, admin@lambethcpcg.org.uk; 020 7733 0878; www.lambethcpcg.org.uk.

7 March. 2pm. A Meeting of Minds - exiles from Gaza and Refuseniks talk in public. Beaconsfield, 22 Newport St, SE11(see first item in this events listing.)

HISTORY SEMINARS AT IHR AND ICS

IHR (Institute of Historical Research Seminars take place at IHR, Senate House, Malet St, Russell Square, unless otherwise stated.

ICS (Institute of Commonwealth Studies) Black Britain Seminars take place at ICS, 28 Russell Square.

18 February. 5pm. 'A British Tendency to Muddle Through'? Barbados Colonial Development and Welfare c. 1940-1955. Mary Chamberlain. IHR Seminar.

19 February. 6-7.30pm. Sharing the Past: community historians at work. Julia Bush (Northamptonshire Black History Association & University of Northampton). ICS. Julia is a member of the BASA Committee.

24 February. 5.15pm. Talk on the Medieval Manor of Mortlake & Wimbledon. Pamela Taylor. IHR Local and Regional Seminar.

26 February. 5.30pm. Between Planter and Slave: The Social and Economic Role of Plantation Overseers in Colonial Virginia and South Carolina. Laura Sandy. IHR American History Seminar.

27 February. 5.30pm. On Not Remembering: Transatlantic Slavery & Finance Capitalism. Anita Rupprecht. IHR Marxsim and the Interpretation of Culture Seminar. Block NG15, Senate House.

5 March. 5.30pm. Sara Baartman. Pamela Scully. IHR Reconfiguring the British: National, Empire, World 1600-1900 Seminar.

9 March. 5.30pm . What is black British jazz? Jason Toynbee. IHR Music in Britain Seminar.

11 March. 5.15pm. Attachment and Distance: Loyalism in the 1790s. John Brewer. IHR Britain in the Long Eighteenth Century Seminar.

8 March. 5.15pm. The Church and the Settlements: 'Extra-Parochialism' at Toynbee Hall and Oxford House 1888-1914. Lucinda Matthews-Jones. IHR Modern Religious History Seminar.

16 March. 5.30pm. Marx, Engels, Chartism and the Capitalist crisis of 1844 and 1848. Keith Flett. IHR Socialist History Seminar. This seminar series is organised by the London Socialist Historians Group: www.londonsocialisthistorians.org.

18 March. 6-7.30pm. The African Presence in Britain 1500-1640. Miranda Kaufmann. ICS Black Britain Seminar. Miranda is a member of the BASA Committee.

19 March. 5.30pm. Roundtable on Race Matters. David Feldman, Cora Kaplan and Ali Rattansi. IHR Reconfiguring the British: National, Empire, World 1600-1900 Seminar.

The full seminar programmes at IHR and other University organisations in London can be seen on: www.history.ac.uk/ihrseminars/index.php

GEORGE LANSBURY COMMEMORATION EVENTS

George Lansbury was born in 1859. The following events are being held to commemorate his life.

21 February. 2pm. 'Radical Bow'. A History Walk around Bow & Bromley. Led by Rev. Michael Peet, Chris Sumner, Prof Mary Davis and Prof. John Shepherd. Meet Bow Underground Station.

22 February. 4pm. George Lansbury Memorial Service. St Mary's Bow Church, Bow Rd. Conducted by Rev Michael Peet with Rev Dr Kenneth Leech. Speakers Bruce Kent and Bob Holman.

25 February. 7pm. George Lansbury: Party Rebel and Labour Party Leader. Panel discussion: Roy Hattersley, Shirley Williams, Alun Michael, MP, Michael White and Prof. John Shepherd. Committee Room 4A, House of Lords, Westminster (arrive by 6.30pm).

27 February. 7.30pm. 'The Most Lovable Figure in Modern Politics': Celebrating George Lansbury, his Life and Politics.' Panel discussion: Tony Benn, Prof. Mary Davis, Chris Sumner, Prof. John Shepherd. Bromley Hall, Bow Rd, E3.

Further information from Nigel Whiskin 01793 74762; 07775 630153; whiskino6@btinternet.com.

NORTH EAST TALKS

Music History

18 February. 11am. Book launch *The Ingenious Mr Avison, Making Music and Money in Eighteenth-century Newcastle* by Roz Southey, Margaret Maddison and David Hughes. Tyne Bridge Publishing, in association with The Avison Ensemble. Newcastle-upon-Tyne Literary & Philosophical Society, 23 Westgate Rd, NE1. www.litandphil.org.uk/html_pages/LP_news.html. The book cover picture shows Zoffany's painting 'The Sharp Family' who were keen musicians in County Durham. Granville Sharp was a leading abolitionist. www.tynebridgepublishing.co.uk

Slavery & Abolition

John Charlton, author of *Hidden Chains. The Slavery Business in the North East* (Tyne Bridge Publishing) is continuing to be invited to give talks on the subject around the region.

23 February. 7pm. Darlington History Club.

26 February. 7pm. Cramlington Local History Society.

3 March. 10am. Pontleland U3A.

9 March. 10am. Whitley Bay.

16 March. 7.30pm. Spittal Tongues Local History Society.

20 March. 8pm. Benton Book Group.

Radicalism and Reform

19 March. 7pm. 1819 and Reform. John Charlton. Fawdon Local History Society.

MISCELLANEOUS LONDON EVENTS

16 February - 25 May. Missfit Mondays. A series of happenings Leon Conrad is co-producing with Lennie Varvarides of Missfit Productions. Leon is a Kennington performance artist, writer, voice trainer, and embroiderer. Leon and Lennie's aim is to bring together innovative

storytellers, poets, visual makers, playwrights, players, improvisers, directors, dreamers, idealists, rebels, and their favourite of all, missfits to create an event showcasing high quality storytelling which crosses all media. Interested in taking part, or know someone who might be? Find out more and download an application form

www.missfitproductions.org/missfitmondays.html. Missfit Mondays is set up as a festival fund raiser for *DYS(THE)LEXI* 2009, a festival celebrating the work of dyslexic writers.

17 February. 6.30pm. The Stephen Bourne Identity. An evening exploring the paradoxes of being a cultural historian. From Stephen's perspective looking at class, race, sexuality and belonging are not always what they seem. Cuming Museum, Old Walworth Town Hall, 151 Walworth Rd. To book a place contact dax.ashworth@southwark.gov.uk. Stephen is an expert on black actors and actresses in Britain. He advised on the exhibition 'From War to Windrush' at the Imperial War Museum, which has been extended to 1 November - www.iwm.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.5290

25 February. Campaigning Alliance for Adult Education Lobby of Parliament. See Workers Education Association story below.

27 February. 8pm. An Art Deco block, Du Cane Court, Balham: its history, Japanese garden and celebrity residents. Greg Vincent. Wandsworth Historical Society talk. Friends Meeting House, Wandsworth High St, SW18. www.wandsworthhistory.org.uk

8 March. Una Marson. Unveiling of Southwark Council Blue Plaque to the black Jamaican poet and BBC broadcaster Una Marson. Camberwell St, SE5.

14 March. Labour Heritage AGM and Talks on John Burns and on the 1929 Labour Government. Full details to be announced.

21 March. 9.30pmff. West London Local History Conference, Montague Hall, Hounslow. I will be giving a talk on Battersea radicalism in the Victorian and Edwardian period. Other speakers: i Dorian Gerhold on 'Reconstructing a 17th-century community: Putney and Roehampton in 1685'; Val Bott on 'Nursery Gardeners of Brentford and Chiswick, 1650-1750'; Keith Whitehouse on 'Lord Ranelagh (1812-1885): Conservative, rake and volunteer'; Jane Kimber on 'A workshop culture: artists and craftsmen of Hammersmith riverside'; and Mike Smith on 'They lived in East Sheen'. There will also be a session of readings from contemporary documents. Plus stalls of local history society publications. Tickets £7.50, inc. morning coffee and afternoon tea) from J. McNamara, 31B Brook Road South, Brentford TW8 ONN. Please send SAE and cheque payable to West London Local History Conference. Lunch not provided; plenty of cafes etc nearby or bring own lunch.

A GRIM FUTURE FOR THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

In November a leading community development trust the Environment Trust went bust: (www.regen.net/careers/features/863596/Trusts-need-strong-base-survive). In January the Yvonne Carr Community Centre on Thessaly Rd, off Wandsworth Rd on the border of Lambeth and Wandsworth, was closed and the staff laid off. Its owning community project organisation is being put into liquidation. The Merton Race Equality Partnership is not being funded again by the Council and will close on 31 March. The recession poses a grim future for community and voluntary organisations as funding dries up, and private firms move in to compete for public service contracts. There has been growing concern that the public service contracts being won by the community and voluntary sector have been eroding its independence, and making many organisations highly vulnerable.

PROTECTING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE SECTOR

The National Independent Action Coalition is a campaign group arguing that it is vital to protect the independence of the community and voluntary sector. Its January Enewsletter contains the following advice:

- Decide what you need to do with your users and your community and hold to that; chase the money to do that job and that job only
- Speak plainly and tell the truth as you see it, even - especially - to those you fear are more powerful than you. If you don't like something, say so. If the Emperor is naked, don't pretend to admire his new clothes
- Argue *for* what you want - for policies, responses, solutions - and not just *against* those that are unacceptable. Say what you want and know how to get it
- Be willing to say 'no' - to money, to unsound ideas, to co-option - and be prepared to stand up to the vilification and exclusion that may follow from that
- Repeat to yourself until you breathe it - the voluntary/community sector is DIFFERENT to the statutory and private sector. This is structural not personal. We each have a different job to do; and this may commit us to dissent - with each other and with others. If you don't know what the differences are, then find out
- Stop looking upwards for the next set of instructions; look sideways to your users, communities, friends and colleagues for inspiration and guidance
- Don't allow yourself or your organisation to be isolated, frightened and exposed through corrosive competitive relationships and encounters - look for allies and work together
- Pay attention to the exercise of power - who has it, how it is used and for what purpose; reach for collective action to redress power imbalances
- Act tactically; remember that there can be many ways to get a result
- Act as you believe. Don't just talk about the problems and the pressures - DO something about them. None of this stuff is going to get sorted by itself.

Details about the Alliance can be seen on their website: www.independentaction.net.

WORKING CLASS HISTORY

There has been much recent discussion about how working class history has been neglected, leading to white working class alienation. The irony is that Black and Asian history in Britain is mainly about working class people, with activists identifying with artisan and working class causes, like Equiano's membership of the London Corresponding Society, and Bill Miller in 20th Century Plymouth (see History & Social Action Publications section below). Small organisations like:

- Society for the Study of Labour History: www.sslh.org.uk
- London Socialists Historians Group: www.londonsocialisthistorians.org
- Socialist History Society: www.socialisthistorysociety.co.uk
- North East Labour History Society: www.nelh.org
- North West Labour History Society: www.workershistory.org
- People's Museum in Manchester: www.phm.org.uk
- Working Class Movement Library in Salford: www.wcml.org.uk
- Labour Heritage: www.labourheritage.com
- Friendly Societies Research Group: www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/friendly-societies-research-group/fsrg-about-us.php

do their bit to encourage research, disseminate information and run talks. A host of material on working class history and action can be accessed on the Internet. The best family and community history work sheds much light on individual working class families and their communities. A good example is HISTORYtalk (the Kensington & Chelsea Community History Group):

www.historytalk.org. There are also many specialist sites like the Trades Union Congress/London Metropolitan University 'Union Makes Us Strong' TUC history on-line website:

www.unionhistory.info.

THE TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS

A key event every year in celebrating the history of working class struggle for better conditions and the right to organise is the annual Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival, which this year will be held 17-20 July - programme details to be announced. The Martyrs were six Dorset farm workers sentenced to seven year's transportation in Australia for forming a trade union. In April 1834 100,000 people marched from Copenhagen Fields, near Kings Cross, to Parliament and on to Kennington Common. They carried a 200,000 strong petition. Eventually the six were pardoned. On the initiative of local resident and historian David Renton, South West TUC, Southern and Eastern Region TUC and the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Trust and other local residents are organising a series of events for 25 April at Edward Square, Kings Cross where there is a mural to the Martyrs. For further details contact David Renton - davidrenton@googlemail.com; or Megan Dobney at SERTUC - mdobney@tuc.org.uk. The story of the six farm workers can be seen on the Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum website: www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk. Details of the residents' initiative for this event can be seen on: www.kingscrossenvironment.com/2008/09/tolpuddle-marty.html.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THE WORKING CLASS

The planned publication of a book of essays *Cultural Heritage and the Working Class* as part of Routledge's new Key Issues in Cultural Heritage series (www.routledge.com/books/series/Key_Issues_in_Cultural_Heritage), provides a good opportunity for local historians involved in researching the working class history of their area to consider submitting a proposal. The promotion for the book states:

'Class is not dead! Many people are actively using working class heritage as a resource to reflect on the past, reassess the present, and plan for the future. At the beginning of the 21st century there is a growing tendency for the heritage of working class people to be interpreted and presented to the public in museums and heritage sites. Working class communities and organizations are also playing an active role in creating a memory of their own past. In this proposed volume we aim to theorize and document this phenomenon as an under-represented form of cultural heritage.'

Drawing on new scholarship in heritage studies, social memory, the public history of labour, and new working class studies, this volume will highlight the heritage of working people, communities and organizations. We particularly urge community and labour movement activists, and scholars committed to civic engagement who are working closely with working class communities or organizations, to submit abstracts.

Studies for this volume can include interpretation of working class communities, working life, industrial heritage or working class culture. Museum and other forms of formal and informal presentation of the working class, as well as places to remember and celebrate the labour movement, are also important topics. Articles dealing with intangible forms of labour heritage including music, art, skills, workplace experiences, oral histories, celebrations and festivals are encouraged. We particularly welcome contributions from those - be they academics, trade unionists or working class community activists - who explicitly mount challenges to the received wisdom of the representation of 'heritage' as belonging to the elite, and who foreground working class experience and self-representation. Articles that can place these themes in explicit comparative and international perspective are also most welcome. Word length: 5000-6000 inclusive of bibliography.'

Abstracts of not more than 300 words should be sent for consideration, together with a 50 word biography, by March 31st to: LS18@york.ac.uk with the view to producing first drafts of papers by the end of September 2009. Note submissions will be subject to peer review.'

LAMBETH POTTERY WORKERS HISTORY

Those involved in Lambeth history know how important a diverse range of industries was in what is now the North of the modern Borough, including railways, engineering, and pottery, particularly Doulton's (later Royal Doulton). The Working Class Movement Library in Salford has recently redesigned its website: www.wcml.org.uk. A search for Lambeth reveals correspondence and papers in the archive of the Ceramic and Allied Trades Union (CATU), formed as the National Amalgamated Society of Male and Female Pottery Workers (NASMFPW) in 1906. Items relate to:

- August 1912 - dispute at J. Stiff & Sons in Lambeth, relating to the re-employment of an alleged blackleg in the dockers strike.
- 20 November 1918 Committee on Production reference 2877. Doulton & Co Ltd, Lambeth v. Workers Union, United Order of General Labourers, Nat. Society of Pottery Workers, National Union of General Workers.
- May/June 1921 Dispute with Doulton & Co Ltd, Lambeth relating to wage reductions and Award of Industrial Court in Clay Industries Arbitration.
- July 1924 arbitration award re male decorators .
- 1939-40. Correspondence involving the Company, H.T. Forman (Union Official), Arthur Harris (London Lodge official), and Arthur Hollins, M.P about national settlements in the stoneware industry Doultons of Lambeth did not commit itself to observing national wage settlements at this time.
- 1946-50 - the Lambeth Lodge of the Union.

WARTIME EVACUATION

An important part of working class family experience in the Second World War was the evacuation: 3.5m children. The Evacuees Reunion Association has commissioned Maurice Blik to create a national memorial to commemorate the evacuation of children. See his website: www.mauriceblik.com/index.php?location=evacuees%20memorial. The memorial is expected to be installed near St. Paul's Cathedral. A commemorative service to mark the anniversary of the start of the evacuation on 1 September 1939 will be held at St Paul's on 1 September. Admittance is by ticket only, and full payment must be made by 31 March. Full details on: www.evacuees.org.uk/stPauls.asp. The Hawkley group of men who were evacuated from Battersea Central School run an excellent website with their reminiscences, and some historical notes I wrote for them: www.emc.org.uk/hawkley1939/index.htm.

WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REVITALISES

The Workers Education Association, the largest non-state provider of adult education, has been through a difficult period. It has now reorganised itself. The Association was founded by Albert Mansbridge and his co-operative friends in Battersea, just off Clapham Common, in 1903. It currently does not have branches in Lambeth, Merton or Wandsworth. The London Regional website can be seen on www.london.wea.org.uk/index.php. The main WEA website is: www.wea.org.uk.

CAMPAIGNING ALLIANCE FOR ADULT EDUCATION

Government support for adult education has been dramatically curtailed in recent years, despite it's insistence on the need for life-long learning. The WEA is a member of the Campaigning Alliance for Adult Education (www.callcampaign.org.uk) An Early Day Motion in Parliament is backing the campaign. (<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37560&SESSION=899>). There will be a Parliamentary lobby on 25 February - see: www.wea.org.uk/weanews/speakingupforadultlearning.htm.

PLEBS LEAGUE V. WEA

The Post-16 Educator group has published 'Plebs. The Lost Legacy of Independent Working-Class

Education' by Colin Waugh, an hourly paid lecturer at the College of North West London. 100 years ago the students at Ruskin College Oxford went on strike in support of its principal Dennis Hird, a socialist and former curate at St. Mary's Parish Church in Battersea. The story includes the differences in approach to working class education of the Workers Education Association and the students and the subsequent Plebs League. 'Plebs' (£3) can be ordered from post16educator@runbox.com; www.post16educator.org.uk. An omission from the author's reading list is the collection of essays published in commemoration of the founding of the WEA: Stephen K Roberts (ed). *A Ministry of Enthusiasm. Centenary Essays on the Workers' Education Association* (Pluto Press 2003), which includes my essay on Mansbridge and the Battersea foundation of the WEA.

LEGACIES AND FUTURES: THE HISTORY WORKSHOP AND RADICAL EDUCATION **Saturday September 19, 2009, Ruskin College, Oxford**

The following is being circulated by Ruskin College. The date for submitting proposals for papers, presentations and displays is 31 March.

The recent opening up of the History Workshop archive at Ruskin College - in addition to the Raphael Samuel Archive at the Bishopsgate Institute - provides new opportunities for thinking about History.

The History Workshops held in the 1960s, 70s and 80s provided particular opportunities for wide-ranging discussions of History and its application in the present. The History Workshop Movement was seen as a radical movement dedicated to political change and new ways of thinking about the past and present.

While discussion of the past in the public domain has arguably opened up extensively, History in schools, colleges, universities and adult education is circumscribed by different constraints to those of the early years of the History Workshop.

What are the possibilities now of practising radical history-making? Is democratic scholarship viable - and what forms can it take? What new forms of engagement are possible? What have we learned and what should be left in the past? What different roles might History have in local and community activism?

This one day conference is not intended to be a nostalgic event but to provide an opportunity to think about and discuss visions and practical examples now. We are also exploring publication of conference contributions.

Speakers include Dr Anna Davin, editor of [History Workshop Journal](#), Ken Jones, Professor of Education at Keele University and author of [Schooling in Western Europe: the new order and its adversaries](#) (Palgrave 2008), Jorma Kalela, Professor (emeritus) University of Turku and author of [The Historian in Society](#) (forthcoming 09/10) Marjorie Mayo, Professor of Community Development & Head of the Centre for Lifelong Learning and Community Engagement Goldsmiths College, University of London and author of [Global Citizens](#) (Zed 2006)

Please send proposals for both analytical and practical papers, presentations, displays in no more than 200 words by 31 March to Kynan Gentry kgentry@ruskin.ac.uk and Hilda Kean hkean@ruskin.ac.uk

SLAVERY & ABOLITION

Work on the North East

In 2007 I was freelance Archival Mapping & Research Officer for the Tyne & Wear Remembering Slavery Project. This project has proved very fruitful meaning that research, publication and

dissemination continue.

- The North East Slavery & Abolition Group enables the former Project volunteers and partner organisations and others to liaise. I co-ordinate it on a voluntary basis through email and a Newsletter. Four issues of a Newsletter have been produced which can be seen on the publications section of the Tyne & Wear Archives website: www.tyneandweararchives.org.uk/publications. The fifth issue will be available shortly. The Group welcomes anyone interested in slavery and abolition in the North East to join the elist, by emailing me.
- 5,000 copies of the pamphlet *Remembering Slavery. Slave trade, slavery and abolition: the north east of England connections* by John Charlton were published in October 2008 by Tyne & Wear Museums for free distribution - copies available from me. It was originally published (again free) in October 2007; the new edition is a redesign.
- *Hidden Chains. The Slavery Business in the North East* by John Charlton (Tyne Bridge Publishing) is £11 inc. p&p - available from me.
- Essays by Project volunteers and Group members were published in the 2008 issue of *North East History* journal: Patricia Hix on America, Slavery and North East Quakers; Peter Livsey on what members of the Newcastle Lit & Phil Society could read on slavery and abolition; Valerie Glass on the Hendersons, a Northumbrian family in Jamaica; and Tamsin Lilley on Sunderland and abolition. It also contains one by me on Black People and the North East. The volume is available from me £10 inc. p&p (£7 unwaged).
- There is co-operation with researchers outside the Region, including the staff at the Library & Museum of Freemasonry, and a postgraduate student studying the free produce movement.
- John Charlton will be giving talks at the Social Movements Conference in Manchester (15-17 April) and the Abolition Conference in Oxford (5-7 June).

Last year I advised on historical aspects of slavery and abolition for the County Durham based Jack Drum Arts/Jackass Theatre youth play production *Sharp Practice* which has had several performances in the North East, mostly recently on National Holocaust Memorial Day. A workshop on the play was held at an international Conference in New York and will be run again at one in Amsterdam.

Black Abolitionists

Last month I worked with a group of students at the University of Central Lancashire studying black abolitionists under the supervision of Dr Alan Rice (American Cultural Studies), which included my arranging for them to see some of the material in the 2007 exhibition at the Library & Museum of Freemasonry, giving them a talk on the black presence in Britain, and leading a walk from the Freemasons HQ in Great Anne's St, around Covent Garden and the Drury Lane area, and along the Strand into Fleet St. I will be giving a talk on Black Abolitionists in the North East at a Symposium at the University of Liverpool (23-25 April) which Alan is involved in organising.

Slavery, Abolition and the Performing Arts

Last year I undertook background research for the new Trading Faces: Recollecting Slavery website, which explores the heritage of the transatlantic Slave Trade in British performing arts and society. Trading Faces is a consortium project developed by Future Histories, Talawa Theatre Company and the V&A Theatre Collections - supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Access to Archives. Produced by Future Histories, highlights of the online exhibition include: a performance timeline featuring newly archived material from the past 200 years, digitized and available online for the first time, narratives of slavery from both the past and present and a series of virtual rooms which explore ritual, religion, carnival and masquerade amongst other aesthetic themes. There is also an Open Doors section in the Online Exhibition where web users can contribute material. www.tradingfacesonline.com

BLACK & ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION (BASA)

Since November I have been voluntary Secretary of the Black & Asian Studies Association, which promotes Britain's Black & Asian heritage. For further details see its website: www.blackandasianstudies.org.uk. A membership form is downloadable. BASA has an ediscussion group BASAJISC which can be accessed and signed up to on www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=BASA. BASA's AGM/Conference will be held on Saturday 27 June. Offers to give talks should be sent to me at sean.creighton@btinternet.com

HISTORY & SOCIAL ACTION PUBLICATIONS

I have published four pamphlets on behalf of organisations or by people I know.

- **Learning About Community. Oxford House in Bethnal Green 1940-1948.** Peter Kuenstler (2004). In association with Oxford House and Settlements & Social Action Research Group. £5 plus p&p.
- **Mother Seacole. A short story.** Jason Young. About the Jamaican nurse and entrepreneur Mary Seacole set during the Crimean War. (2005). £2 plus p&p
- **Bill Miller. Plymouth's Black Labour Activist.** Jonathan Wood. In association with Labour Heritage (2006). £3 plus p&p
- **Vauxhall and the Invention of the Urban Pleasure Gardens.** Professor Penelope Corfield. (2008). £5 plus p&p.

Orders to: sean.creighton@btinternet.com. Over the next few weeks I will be considering four new potential titles.

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