

HISTORY & SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

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Contents: John Archer & Black Edwardians - BASA Conference 27 June; Price's Candles Talk 30 June; Battersea's Global Reach - the Story of Price's Candles; Walking into the past - a tale of bias; Clem Attlee Plaque; Events; News

JOHN ARCHER & BLACK EDWARDIANS

Black & Asian Studies Association Conference
Saturday 27 June, 2.30-5pm

Providence House Youth Club, 138 Falcon Rd, London, SW11
One minute from Grant Rd exit from Clapham Junction Station

Speakers:

Sean Creighton - John Archer and the Black Atlantic
Jeff Green - "Do we really know Samuel Coleridge-Taylor?"
David Killingray - the 1900 Pan African Conference
Caz Bressey - White women and Black History:
The case of Catherine Impey

John Archer (1863-1932): Battersea's black Progressive Mayor 1913/14;
campaigner for black rights/colonial freedom; leading Labour activist
1918ff.

Bookstall and displays. Cost £3

This event is part of Wandsworth Heritage Festival
Further information from Sean Creighton

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'Candles from Coconuts'
- The History of Price's Candles
- Tuesday 30 June. 7pm.

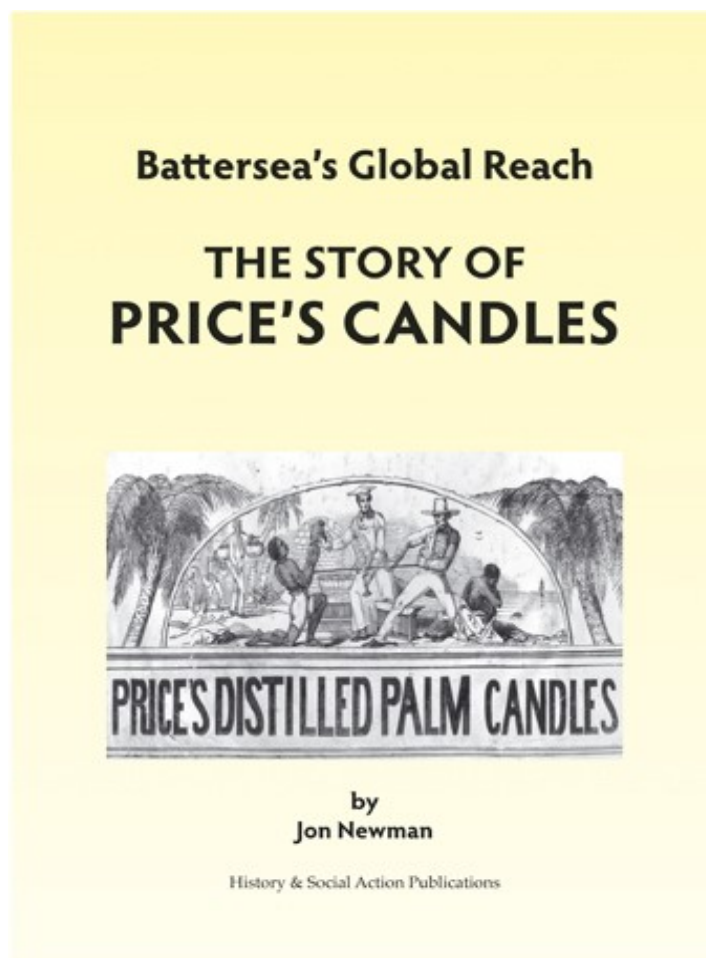
Talk by Jon Newman (Lambeth Archives)
York Gardens Library, 34 Lavender Rd, SW11
History & Social Action Publications event at which its next title
Battersea's Global Reach: The Story of Price's Candles

will be launched - see below; and on sale at the event bookstall.

This event is part of Wandsworth Heritage Festival

Further information from Sean Creighton

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BATTERSEA'S GLOBAL REACH: THE STORY OF PRICE'S CANDLES

Battersea's Global Reach: The story of Price's Candles is the title of the latest History & Social Action Publications pamphlet being launched on 30 June. Written by Jon Newman, an archivist working freelance and for Lambeth Archives, it tells the story of Price's Candles at Vauxhall and Battersea and how it helped to light the world. Price's Candles of Battersea was and still is a household name. Yet the company's history is so much more than the making of candles. From its inception in the 1830s it re-invigorated a sleepy and unchanged industry by the application of scientific research. Industrial chemistry allowed it to develop the first stearine candles and provide inexpensive good quality lighting. Forty years later the discovery of oil and the use of paraffin wax for candle manufacture additionally turned it into an oil company. As well as commercial success the company was noted for its ethical position on products - particularly the use of Palm Oil for manufacture and the strong anti-slavery message that this sent out in the 1850s - and for its radical approach to employee relations, providing schools, housing and pensions for its workers. The story of the 20th century is a familiar one of decline and reinvention - from manufacturing industry to retailer to heritage brand. £5 @ £1 postage from

WALKING INTO THE PAST - A TALE OF BIAS

Even guided history walks can offend people. This I did on Sunday 14 June in my walk for the Lavender Hill Business Association Lavender Festival. Two people, one a Wandsworth Conservative Councillor, found my bias offensive more suitable for a party political rally. Bias because I was telling the story of the Progressive Alliance and Labour politics which dominated Battersea for all but six years from 1894 to 1964/5. In the former Town Hall I explained how a campaign had saved it from being demolished or sold, and that the current MP for Battersea Martin Linton, had played a leading role as a Councillor and then Trustee in getting it developed into the Battersea Community Arts Centre and then Battersea Arts Centre. Needless to say the campaign was originally against the Conservative Council of 1968-71.

If you are telling the story of the social, economic, political and cultural development and life of a neighbourhood the multiple complex interactions between and within different interest groups, whether residents, business people, land owners, landlords, developers, and political and social and civil society organisations, cannot be ignored. Lavender Hill has the former Battersea Town Hall initiated on the suggestion of two socialist Vestrymen, and the offices of Battersea Labour Party since 1928. Leading activists like Burns, Fred Knee, William West, Caroline Ganley, Clive Branson, Jimmy Clancy, and Jimmy Lane, Senior and Junior, to name but a few, lived at various addresses along the Hill and the streets off it. And as for bias I mentioned Charles Munslow, Conservative agent, Percy Haythornthwaite, leading Municipal Reformer and freemason, where the freemasons met (mainly Conservative supporters) and regretted the absence of any work on their own history by the Conservatives.

In other districts a completely different set of interactions produced different outcomes. In some there would be little to say about the labour movement and possibly a lot to say about the Conservatives. My walk along Battersea High St to St Mary's Church by the river on Thursday 18 June had considerably less content about political history, because there is less of it in that neighbourhood.

Following the accusation of bias on the Sunday, I had a bit of fun embellishing my explanations when I led the walk on Lavender Hill scheduled as part of the Heritage Festival two days later. And I get extra points as a good boy; I did not take those who came on the walk across the border into the area between Wix's Lane and Cedars Road - into Labour Lambeth.

CLEM ATTLEE - WANDSWORTH COUNCIL UNVEILS PLAQUE AT 18 PORTINSCALE RD, PUTNEY

Wandsworth Council is unveiling a plaque tomorrow to Clem Attlee at 18 Portinscale Rd in Putney as part of the Wandsworth Heritage Festival. It is an invitation only event The Attlee family ran the C Attlee & Co. Ltd brewery in Tooting High St. Charles Attlee had been the Brew Master. He grew prosperous, enlarged the business to distilling and was able to buy 'The Limes', a substantial house on the corner of Merton High Road and Garratt Lane (now corner of Tooting High Street and Garratt Terrace). Clem's brother Tom was a member of the Board of Trade Juvenile Advisory Committee for Clapham Junction. Reminiscing in the 1970s Wally Nesbit recalled hearing Attlee and other speakers like Aneurin Bevan and Ernest Bevin at Tooting Co-op Hall. On 13 October 1964, very frail with age, Attlee came to Chatham Hall in Chatham Rd to support Ernie Perry, Labour's Battersea South Parliamentary candidate. He received standing ovations on arrival and after his speech.

EVENTS

26 June - 26 July. Fri, Sat & Sun 2-6pm. *Multiverse*. Exhibition by Jemima and Dolly Brown, Ole Hagen, Alicia Paz and Plastique. Danielle Arnaud, 123 Kennington Road, London, SE11 6SF. 0207 735 8292. www.daniellearnaud.com.

27 June. Visioneries, Dissenters and Rebels Walk. A walk through Islington's History. Led by David Rosenberg. Further details: www.kingscrossenvironment.com/2009/06/radical-walkers-unite.html

28 June. 2pm. The People's Charter. Lucas Arms, 245 Gray's Inn Rd, WC1. Discussion led by John Mulrenan (Cherter Group), organised by Alliance for Green Socialism (North London Group). Details of the Charter can be seen on www.thepeoplescharter.com.

29 June. 6.30pm. Dock Strike, Match Girls and William Morris. Talk at HISTORYtalk. All free. Enter via side entrance to the Methodist Church, 240b Lancaster Road, London, W11 4AH. Call to book 020 7792 2282; info@historytalk.org

1 July. 7.30pm. Jazz music/poetry at St. Peters. Jonathan Cohen's work features jazz, classical and world music and poetry and is inspired by T. S. Eliot's poem *Little Gidding*. Performed by the Time Loves Changes sextet (including Alec Dankworth). St. Peter's Church, Vauxhall, 310 Kennington Lane, SE11 5HY. (Vauxhall Station end.) www.crossoverlambeth.org. Contact details: The Revd. Alison Kennedy. 020 7820 9445. alison_m_kennedy@hotmail.com. Excellent venue for music. It's the church built on the site of the former Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens,. It's worth visiting just for the wonderful interior.

2 July. 4.30pm. Past, Present and Future Multicultural London.. Speakers: Jerry White, Historian and Local Government Ombudsman, author of '*London in the Twentieth Century: A City and Its People*' (Vintage, 2008); **Kate Gavron,** Trustee of the Young Foundation and co-author of '*The New East End. Kinship, Race and Conflict*' (Profile, 2006); **Rob Berkeley,** Director of the Runnymede Trust. **Additional speaker** since HSN10 listing: **Wesley Kerr,** broadcaster and journalist and Chair of Heritage Lottery Fund's Committee for London. The Brunei Lecture Theatre, SOAS, University of London, WC1H 0XG. This event is part of the Anglo-American Conference of Historians 2009; Cities, organised by the Institute of Historical Research. Registration is essential, please RSVP to ruth.evans@sas.ac.uk. 020 7862 8781.

4 & 5 July. 10am. Annual Robert Tressell Festival. Concordia Hall, Church Rd, St Leonards. TN37 6HB (nearest station St Leonards Warrior Square). Speakers, stalls, guided walk. Light refreshments. Donations welcome on door. Details from 01424 460735 or 447594. deedaly@btinternet.com; Susannah@farley-green.freemove.co.uk.

5 July. 7.30pm. Ragged Trousered Philanthropists. New theatrical adaptation performance. £5/£4 concessions. Part of Annual Robert Tressell Festival. See 4 & 5 July.

5 July. 7pm. Stand-up comedy at St. Peter's. Ivor Dembina, of Brixton Comedy Club, performs his unique one-hour show, 'This is Not a Subject for Comedy'. Inspired by his visits to Israel and Palestine as a peace worker, Dembina uses humour to chart how his views of Israel as a north London Jewish suburbanite were challenged by witnessing the effect of the military Occupation first hand. This is comedy on a serious subject with the laughter bound to appeal to anyone who's concerned about this seemingly intractable conflict and believes in the struggle for peace. See 1 July

6 July. 6.30-8.30pm The History of Chartism 1835-1860. Talk by Dorothy Thompson. See 29

June.

8 July. Closing date for applications for Director of Stockwell Partnership. See news item below.

9 July. 7.30 for 8pm. Bugs and what's in your soil in Kennington. Talk by David Perkins of Roots & Shoots to Kennington Gardens Society. Roots & Shoots, Walnut Tree Walk, SE11. Non members welcome at a cost of £2 on the door.

10 July. 7.30pm: Opera Gala at St Peter's. Evening of music sung by Australian soprano Lisa Anne Robinson and British tenor Gareth Dafydd Morris. The first part of the programme will celebrate George Frederic Handel in this his anniversary year, and will be followed by some of the most popular numbers of the operatic repertoire from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* to Puccini's *La boheme*. Handel's music was played, and his statue by Roubillac was, at Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. See 1 July.

11 July. Dealing with the Overweight Crisis. ANC Health & Well Awareness Day. 9am-1.30pm. All Nations Centre, Tyers Terrace, Kennington, SE11 5LY. Talks and health stands. Further details from: 02 07735 3685. churchoffice@apostolic.anc.org. www.apostolic.anc.org.

12 July. 7.30pm. Classical music/cabaret around the world with Noel Coward at St. Peter's. An evening of songs and sketches by Noel Coward and his contemporaries, woven together by Colin and Gulliver. A combination of *Kit and the Widow*, *Morecambe and Wise* and *Hinge and Bracket*. See 1 July.

13 July. 6.30-8.30pm. Black Emancipation and the Working Class 1815-1838, talk by Sean Creighton, and **Whigs v Chartists: local history featuring Lord Holland and Feargus O'Connor** by Tom Vague. See 29 June.

14 July. Muslims Making Britain. One-day workshop jointly run by the AHRC-funded research projects *Making Britain* and *Framing Muslims* and SOAS, University of London. Speakers include: Humayun Ansari, Katherine Butler Brown, Amer Hussein, Siobhan Lambert-Hurley, Salman Sayyid, Sara Wajid, and Amina Yaqin. It will explore facets of the historical and contemporary South Asian Muslim experience in Britain, focusing on the cultural productions of writers, artists, activists and workers since 1870 in order to explore how they have negotiated, interacted with and sometimes resisted majority British culture; their varied and complex identifications and affiliations; and the ways in which they might have re-imagined the nation. The focus will be on how South Asian Muslims have helped shape British cultural and political life. Complicating the common perception that a homogeneous British culture only began to diversify after the Second World War, the *Making Britain* project explores how an early South Asian diasporic population impacted on Britain's literary, cultural and political life. *Framing Muslims* is concerned with the cultural, artistic, social and legal structures which 'frame' contemporary debates about Muslims in the West. To register your interest in attending this event, or for any queries, email: artsmaking-britain@open.ac.uk or js64@soas.ac.uk. www.open.ac.uk/arts/south-asians-making-britain. www.framingmuslims.org.

22 July Closing date for representations re-38-46 Albert Embankment appeal. See news story below.

No dates advertised. Notting Hill guided tours with Tom Vague starting at Latimer Road station and concluding at Trellick Tower, plus bespoke tours. To book call 020 7792 2282.

12 August. 7pm. The London Free School. Notting Hill 1966: Counter Culture, Community

Action and Carnival Roots slideshow and talk by Tom Vague, plus screening of **Notting Hill 1958 Riot Tour**, a Westway TV/HISTORYtalk film and **Vague 1979-2009** exhibition. Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9DX (020 7837 4473)

16 September. 'Your Heritage' Grants Workshop at London Metropolitan Archives. Designed for those aiming to apply for a Heritage Lottery Fund 'Your Heritage' grant (£3,000 - £50,000). Course objectives are: to give participants a detailed understanding of criteria for 'Your Heritage' grants; to provide participants with advice on completing the application form; to give participants confidence to complete the application form independently. Part of series of workshops open to anyone working in archives or with archive materials in the UK, but participants should have a specific project proposal in mind. Places on these events are *free* but limited and will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. To reserve a place please complete the booking form available from the National Council on Archives website www.nca.org.uk/lottery (go to [Training Events: Current](#)).

30 September. Community Archives and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Archive Lottery Advisory Service workshop aimed at people who might be seeking funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to run a community archive project. Wolverhampton Archives. The workshop will be tailored for those involved in community and voluntary organisations, but it may be of interest to people working in heritage organisations, seeking to partner community groups in delivering a community archive project. This workshop is *free* but places are limited and available on a strictly first come, first serve basis. To reserve a place please complete the booking form available from the National Council on Archives website www.nca.org.uk/lottery (go to [Training Events: Current](#)).

NEWS

Stockwell Partnership Seeks Director. Last year and at the beginning of this year I did an evaluation of community buildings for Stockwell Partnership. It is seeking to employ a Director (£37,500-£42,500) either part- or full-time. The Partnership has completed running a successful European funded regeneration programme (Urban II) and has won the contract to provide bi-lingual advocacy for the whole of Lambeth. It runs a popular advice service and wishes to expand advice, advocacy and bi-lingual services generally. The Partnership runs the local community forums, is a lead partner in the Advancing Assets programme, and promotes and, could manage, local environmental projects. It is looking for someone with a relevant degree or equivalent, at least 5 years experience in the field of community development or the voluntary sector, ability and willingness to raise funds, understanding of Advocacy and Advice services and the ability to manage a small Registered Charity and Limited Company in all respects reporting to an enthusiastic Board of Trustees. For application forms and other details see: www.stockwell.org.uk. Closing date midnight 8 July; proposed interview date 17 July.

Durand Primary to set up own Secondary School? *The Evening Standard* and *The Daily Telegraph* have both run stories about Greg Martin, the former Head of Durand Primary School which is situated between Clapham and Brixton Rds, just down from Kennington Oval. He is now its Director of Education and Development. According to the *Standard* Martin earns £155,000 , £70k as Director and £85k as head of the private firm that runs London Horizons, which manages the accommodation and gym and swimming pool on the school premises. The School has access to the pool and there are reduced rates for the facilities for parents. His salary makes him, apparently, "London's highest paid teacher". The story states that he has no responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school but is now involved in developing a £3 million early years centre for children aged 3 to 9. *The Telegraph* had him talking about the school's proposal to expand into secondary education by acquiring a defunct private school outside London. The

school would have 600 pupils who would stay for four nights and return to London for the weekend. The *Standard* has also reported that Martin is being chased by the Child Support Agency for non-payment of maintenance to his former wife and two children, which he denies. Many people living around Durand School have had concerns about the way in which Martin runs it. They do not like the idea that he could take over a side road as part of measures to control vehicles that the new housing development on the former Freemans site between Clapham Rd and Liberty St will generate. But why is the press after him?

Our Place Network. Enews 6 of the English Heritage Our Place Network was sent round on 17 June. For further details see: www.english-heritage.org.uk/ourplacenetwork

The Legal Status of School Libraries. [If you believe that school libraries should be statutory sign up to this Downing Street petition: http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/literacy.](http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/literacy)

Oval CC Gets Go-ahead for Hotel. Following a public inquiry the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has given the green light to plans by Surrey County Cricket Club and Arora International Hotels for the demolition of the Lock, Laker and Peter May stands at Oval cricket ground and the creation of an additional 1,830 seats and a hotel. Oval's local Lib Dem Councillors supported local residents over their concerns regarding the loss of daylight, extra noise, traffic and disturbance. The plans originally went to public enquiry following the Health and Safety Executive raising concerns over the proximity of the nearby Kennington gas holders, but the Secretary of State has now decided that these concerns (and those of the residents) do not warrant refusing permission. The permission comes with restrictions on the hours of operation of the building work (and, once finished, the buildings themselves) and noise restrictions.

Yet Another 23 story Tower Block: 38-46 Albert Embankment. Despite the credit crunch and the recession developers are still pursuing their schemes. In response to Lambeth Council's rejection of a 23 story commercial and residential tower block at 38-46 Albert Embankment Oktis Holdings Ltd has lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate. The closing date for representations on the appeal is 22 July - reference number APP/N5660/A/09/2105613. Representations can be made on line through www.planningportal.gov.uk/pcs. The documentation held by the Council relating to the appeal can be seen by contacting Mr Richard Saunders, Lambeth Planning Department, 020 7926 1196.

"I Can hire One-half of the Working-Class to Kill the Other Half." The latest enews from LabourStart features the following explanation of this quotation. 'That's American railroad tycoon Jay Gould on why he wasn't worried about a strike back in 1886. It's one of 1,300 quotations from trade unionists (and bosses, obviously) in the book "Great Labor Quotations" which is our book of the week. We're sure that this book will be an invaluable resource if you ever need a quote for a speech or article -- in fact, it's already something of a bestseller. To learn more, or to order your copy, go here: www.labourstart.org/bookshop/?p=56 '

Evacuation Test for London Children - June 19, 1939. As a general rule I would not normally promote what *The Daily Telegraph* is doing, even after Snoutsintroughgate. But the Hawkey group of former pupils of Battersea Central School has drawn attention to the fact that the newspaper is publishing daily articles from the archive 70 years ago chronicling the build-up to the Second World War, as well as 10 features by historian Andrew Roberts, illustrated with video. The group draws particular attention to the trial evacuation in London in June. See www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/britainatwar. When Bill Miller, Plymouth's black Labour activist, organised an unofficial evacuation he was arrested and put on trial. You can read the details in History & Social Action Publications title *Bill Miller*.

The Need for Vigilance on Planning Permissions. The continuing story of the development of the Freeman's site off Clapham Rd just down from Kennington Oval in Lambeth is a reminder of the need to keep vigilant on planning permissions. Developers are seeking to change the terms of permissions already granted. Notting Hill Housing Trust, which is providing the social housing on the site has sought permission to change some of the proposed affordable rental property to shared ownership. There is a rumour locally that Freemans is not proposing, after all, to return to the site, and the developers would be applying to convert the proposed office space to housing. If this were to happen it mean a loss of employment provision on the site.

Robert Tressell Society. The Society which celebrates the life of Robert Tressell and his influential novel *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* about working class life in Mugsborough is holding its Annual Festival in St. Leonards on 4 and 5 July - see Events section. Andy Lynch's three part adaptation of the novel was broadcast on Radio 4, as well as his related dramatisation *Mugsborough 1917* (May 29 & 30). See also the schedule of the tour of a play on the novel in HSN 10.

Vauxhall Please Gardens Talk. Northcote Rd Library's meeting room was packed with 41 people listening to Professor Penny Corfield talk about Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, organised by History & Social Action Publications as part of the Wandsworth Heritage Festival. The talk was followed by a series of interesting questions, and a good sale of pamphlets. The pamphlet is now also on sale at the North Road bookshop.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Elaine Kramer and Oku Okpenyon for information forming the basis for some of the news items above.