

HISTORY & SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

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Contents: Events; Wandsworth Heritage Festival News; Miscellaneous History; Current Affairs; 'Breaking Barriers' Suffragette Exhibition; 1919 Race Riots One Day Symposium Call for Papers; Slavery and Abolition Special Issue; (Re)Figuring Human Enslavement: Images of Power, Violence and Resistance; Black Emancipation and the Working Class 1815-38

EVENTS

To 9 August. FlatScreen by Alex Kershaw. *Phi Ta Khon Project*. Alex Kershaw is based in Sydney and works with video and photography. Beaconsfield, 22 Newport Street, London SE11 6AY. info@beaconsfield.ltd.uk 020 7582 6465. Please call in advance for wheelchair access. www.beaconsfield.ltd.uk.

To 6 September. Ananta by Sumit Sarkar. Durham. Exhibition by young British artist Sumit Sarkar. Ananta is the name of a snake that belonged to the Hindu god Vishnu and means 'without end' or infinity. There are lots of linked activities: Venue: DLI Museum and Durham Art Gallery, Aykley Heads, Durham City, DH1 5TU. 0191 384 2214. www.durham.gov.uk/dli. Organised by GemArts. 0191 440 4124. vikas@gemarts.org. www.GemArts.org.

To 1 November. Daily 10am-6pm. From War to Windrush Exhibition. Imperial War Museum. Lambeth Rd. London. www.lwm.org.uk.

To 18 December. Exhibition Freemasonry and the French Revolution at Library and Museum of Freemasonry, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ. Mondays-Fridays 10am-5pm. For details see: www.freemasonry.london.museum/exhibits/french-revolution.php.

1 August. 7.30pm. Under The Arabian Moon. St Paul's School, Lonsdale Road, Barnes SW13. Seductive stories from The Arabian Nights retold by Kennington resident artist Leon Conrad with Iranian music by Sam Fathi and shadow theatre by Monooka. Tickets from 7pm on the door.

2 August. 1pm-4pm. Spinning Stories Drop-in Workshop. The Women's Library is on the site of one of the first public wash houses in London. Artist Clare Qualmann and Emily Butterworth (King's College, London) have worked together on the 'Spinning Stories' project, looking at laundries as a place where people chat, tell stories, exchange tips and share news. All are welcome to come and have a cup of tea, and share a memory, a tip or a story at Boundary Estate Community Launderette, 28 Calvert Avenue, Shoreditch, E2 7JP. Contributions can be made via www.spinningstories.wordpress.com

2 August. Brixton Community Cohesion Festival marking the anniversary of the 1981 riots/uprisings in Brixton. Reflecting that Brixton is very different today the Festival has music, arts, food, crafts, and cultural clothes that celebrate the diverse cultures representing the diversity of the people of Brixton.

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3 and 4 August. 7.30pm. Under the Arabian Moon. See 1 August. The Roundhouse Studio Theatre, Chalk Farm Road, NW1. Booking: 08444-771-000 or 08444-828-008.
www.camdenfringe.org - www.roundhouse.org.uk.

8 August. 7pm. Sounds of India - Hindustani classical music featuring Rajan-Sajan Misra. Kings Hall, Newcastle University, Newcastle, NE1 7RU. Tickets : £10 / £7, | Booking Info: 01207 236060. www.kalapremi.org

10 August. 3pm-6pm. Spinning Stories Drop-in Workshop. See 2 August.

16 August. 190th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre. Manchester. 2pm on the steps of Manchester Central (GMEX) reading of Shelley's poem "The Masque of Anarchy". 7pm acoustic and spoken word gig at the Briton's Protection pub (opposite the Bridgewater Hall) featuring musicians Claire Mooney, Alun Parry, Sargasso Township Jazz Band and poets Dave Puller and others. Tickets cost £3/£1 on the door. Organised by Manchester Trades Union Council.

16 August. 3- 5pm. Reunion. Cornerhouse, Manchester. If you have ancestors who were at Peterloo, were there when Yuri Gagarin came to Manchester in 1961, or know someone who took part in the 1932 Kinder Scout Mass Trespass or saw Mahatma Gandhi when he visited Darwen in 1931, this informal event is for you. It's part of the programme around the exhibition '[Procession](http://www.cornerhouse.org)', which runs at the Cornerhouse until 23 August. www.cornerhouse.org.

26-30 August. Soundpractice Summer School: for piano, music and musical theatre. Special tuition by Fred Scott (piano teacher and pianist) and others for children and young people. Venue: Trinity School, Croydon. Help with costs is being provided for some participants by the Florence Creighton Scholarship Fund. Fred is a former pupil of my mother. Full details: www.soundpractice.com/html/contact_and_directions.html

29 August. Storytelling Sessions at the British Museum as part of the Indian Summer exhibition. Vayu Naidy and Leon Conrad (Kennington resident). For full details of exhibition and related events see:
www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/all_current_exhibitions/indian_summer/events_programme/full_events_calendar.aspx

4-27 September. Andrea Gregson Last Night For Ever. Garden History Museum. Sculptural wooden structure resembling cabinets of curiosities on stilts, linked together like a giant insect. The series of chambers house miniature worlds echoing the past and present lives of the now lost **Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens** (1661 - 1859). The title of the work is taken from the final event at Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens on 25 June 1859. Museum, Lambeth Rd/Lambeth Palace Rd, London, SE1. Open Daily from 10.30 am-5pm. 020 7401 8865. www.gardenmuseum.org.uk. Presented by Parabola Trust: Danielle Arnaud 020 7735 8292; danielle@parabolatrust.org.

9 September - 18 October. Soundtrap IV: John Wynne. *Bouncing off the walls*. New sculptural sound installation using a player-piano, a found vacuum cleaner and more than 300 discarded but working hi-fi speakers. Beaconsfield, 22 Newport Street, London, SE11 6AY. info@beaconsfield.ltd.uk. [020 7582 6465](tel:02075826465). Please call in advance for wheelchair access. www.beaconsfield.ltd.uk

12 September. 7pm. Sounds of India - Hindustani classical music featuring Sanjeev Chimmalgi. PAC Theatre, Royal Grammar School, Eskdale Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4DX. In association with Asian Artists Network. Tickets : £10 /£7. Booking Info: 01207 236060. www.kalapremi.org

14 September. Freedom of Information: what's in it for researchers? 10am-4pm. The Lighthouse, 11 Mitchell Lane, Glasgow, G1. Research Information Network free event to raise awareness of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) as a tool for researchers and to aid

understanding of the new access regime from the Scottish perspective. For a full programme, more information and to book your free place, visit www.rin.ac.uk/foi-scotland

14 September. Christianity in Early Africa. Black History Studies session. 020 8881 0660. www.blackhistorystudies.com

19 September. Conference Legacies and Futures: The History Workshop and radical education. Ruskin College, Oxford. Further information and to book tickets, contact kgentry@ruskin.ac.uk.

19 September. 10am-5pm. 17th Annual Ganesh Festival. Lamplight Arts Centre, Front Street, Stanley, Co. Durham, DH9 0NA. Festival of the elephant-headed deity, Ganesh, who is considered to bestow prosperity and knowledge. Tickets: £12 £10. Family deals available. Booking Info: 01207 236060. www.kalapremi.org

19 September. 2.30pm. Monica Ross. Anniversary: an act of memory. National participatory arts project marking the 60th anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Ross will perform the Declaration with a group of other artists. Performance presented as part of Open House London. Beaconsfield, 22 Newport Street, London, SE11 6AY. info@beaconsfield.ltd.uk. [020 7582 6465](tel:02075826465). Please call in advance for wheelchair access. www.beaconsfield.ltd.uk

19 - 20 September. Open House London. Celebrating the capital's architecture. For full details visit www.openhouse.org.uk/London.

21-3 September. Slavery in all its forms: historical practices and contemporary problems. Three-day course for Postgraduate Students and Practitioners organised by the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation at Hull University. Further details on www.hull.ac.uk/wise.

23-25 September. Slavery, Migration and Contemporary Bondage in Africa. Conference. Wilberforce Institute. Hull. Further details on www.hull.ac.uk/wise.

27 September. 1-4.30pm. 400 Years of Black Female Leaders. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Rd, London, SE1

2 & 3 October. Conference. "Is England's Past For Everyone?" Learning and Outreach in the Historic Environment. Bristol. Victoria County History 'England's Past for Everyone' project. Full details on www.englishpastforeveryone.org.uk/National/GetInvolved/Conference_2009

7 October. Call Mr Robeson. Tayo Aluko's show about Paul Robeson. Atrix, Bromsgrove. Tayo Aluko and Friends Ltd. 25-26 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, L3 5RY. 0151 707 8187. www.CallMrRobeson.com; info@tayoalukoandfriends.co.

9 October. Call Mr Robeson. Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton.

10 October. Call Mr Robeson. Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal.

12 October. Once Upon a Poem, Twice Upon a Tale. A celebratory evening of stories in verse and poetic storytelling: ballads, epics, tall tales with Leon Conrad. Poetry Cafe, Betterton St, Covent Garden WC2. £6.00 on the door. 7.30pm start.

12 October. The Amazing History of Black People in Britain. Black History Studies session. 020 8881 0660. www.blackhistorystudies.com

15 October. Song Celestial. Leon Conrad with Baluji Shivastav and friends. Barbican Theatre,

Plymouth, 7.30pm. Booking Line: 01752 267131.

17 October. Call Mr Robeson. Harlow Playhouse.

24 October. Call Mr Robeson. Library Theatre, Sheffield.

26-30 October. From War to Windrush Family Workshops. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Rd, SE1. www.lwm.org.uk.

29 October. Call Mr Robeson. Mercury Theatre, Colchester.

30 October. Call Mr Robeson. Greenwich Theatre, London.

To 31 October. Soft Lights and Sweet Music: Photographs of Elisabeth Welch. Exhibition. National Portrait Gallery. www.npg.org.uk/whatson/event-root/soft-lights-and-sweet-music.php

7 November - 21 February 2010. Bob and Roberta Smith. *Factory Outlet: This Artist is Deeply Dangerous*. Exhibition. Beaconsfield, 22 Newport Street, London, SE11 6AY. info@beaconsfield.ltd.uk. [020 7582 6465](tel:02075826465). Please call in advance for wheelchair access. www.beaconsfield.ltd.uk

21 November. Slavery and the English Country House: Mapping Current Research Conference.

26 November. Once upon a Poem, Twice upon a Tale. See 12 October.

28 November. Society for the Study of Labour History Conference. Newcastle. Programme to be announced.

20 December. 2.30pm and 7pm. Crystal Clear. Music-making at the Crystal Palace featuring the life and work of Sir August Manns at Finchcocks, a living museum of historic keyboard instruments. Written and performed by Leon Conrad (as Manns), and Maureen Lyall as his daughter, with vocal music from Greg Tassell (prize-winning Tenor) and Gary Branch (historic keyboard instruments) and sing-along carols. See Finchcocks website for further details. www.finchcocks.co.uk. Tickets available in advance from 01580 211702 or on the day.

WANDSWORTH HERITAGE FESTIVAL NEWS

Unveiling of Plaque to Clem Attlee. On 26 June Wandsworth Council unveiled a plaque to Clem Attlee at 18 Portinscale Rd in Putney as part of the Wandsworth Heritage Festival. It was an interesting and bizarre occasion. The current Mayor Brian Pritchard, who switched from Labour to Tory in the 1970s, and a former medical Professor gave a warm tribute, highlighting particularly the achievement in setting up the National Health Service. Earl Attlee, Clem's grandson, spoke and unveiled the plaque. Although the Putney Labour Party had not been invited a leading member Donald Roy came. There was an exhibition about Attlee. The bizarre aspect was the presence of a contingent of Year 9 pupils from nearby Ashcroft College and a light buffet at the College itself. Yes - the former ADT College set up by Michael Ashcroft who went on to be Tory Party Treasurer, now an Academy named after him. The plaque is the first of several that are planned not just to commemorate people, not just to go on actual buildings associated with those people, but organisations and businesses as well.

Vauxhall Gardens Talk 24 June. 41 people filled the room at Northcote Library to hear Penny Corfield talk about Vauxhall Gardens, one of the talks I organised as History & Social Acton Publications.

Price's Candles Talk 30 June. 38 people came to York Gardens Library to hear Jon Newman talk about the history of Price's Candles and the launch of the latest History & Social Action Publications pamphlet *Battersea's Global Reach. The Story of Price's Candles*. Before opening up discussion to general comments and questions I specifically asked if anyone had worked for Price's. A husband and wife indicated that they did, and the wife got up and read out her reminiscences. Discussions will be starting about the possibility of setting up a Price's Candles local history project. An emailed comment: 'it was a brilliant evening'.

MISCELLANEOUS HISTORY

Beware *Who Do You Think You Are?* I have been emailed by a researcher asking for my help on one of the programmes for the next series of *Who Do You Think Your Are?*. I pointed out the problems I had encountered advising on the John Hurt programme, and said that as a freelancer I would only help if I was paid a fee. The answer came back that the budget did not include provisions for fees. So I will not be helping. As people know I am normally very willing to share my information and to advise, but I do draw the line at commercial companies feeding off people like me. Big headed. Arrogant? Possibly. But this is what one person I know has said on the matter. 'Good for you. How dare researchers for commercial companies expect to tap your knowledge and expertise for free. They wouldn't dream of similar approaches to solicitors and lawyers, or medics, so why do they think they can exploit our goodwill. In a more noble world I would like my skills to be in the public domain, but I always ask commercial researchers what their fee is. It sorts out the adults from the children and often, much to my relief, they go away. All strength to your elbow - and many thanks for the valuable work that you do.'

Vauxhall Creative Industries Walk 7 July. Almost monsooned off. As Ann and I drove to Vauxhall the heavens opened, the rain and hail just dropped from the sky, the thunder and lightening crashed around. And then just as the walk was due to start, the storm stopped. And there were three people waiting ! So walk we did.

Penny Corfield's Retirement Conference. Given she is due to retire soon, colleagues of Penny Corfield held a two day Conference on 29 and 30 June to celebrate her contribution to 18thC studies. I was the last speaker on the first day before a buffet supper. I talked about Penny in the Community. The text of what I said is being put on the Royal Holloway History Department website.

Hidden Chains. John Charlton's book on the slavery business and the North East has now received two excellent reviews: Steve Martin in *Museums* (June 2009), and John McAleer, Curator of 18th Century Imperial and Maritime History at the National Maritime Museum in *Social History in Museums*, journal of the Social History Curators Group (Vol.33, 2009). The book costs £10 + p&p and can be ordered from sean.creighton@btinternet.com.

NESAG. The 6th issue of the North East Slavery & Abolition Newsletter is now available from me. The contents are: *Slavery & Abolition* Special Issue; [\(Re\)figuring Human Enslavement: Images of Power, Violence and Resistance](#); Who was Mrs Moody?; Black Boxers in the North East; Remembering Slavery Evaluation Report; Extracts from Newcastle Papers; The Langstaffs of Teesdale & Weardale; Information about North East Freemasons; Miscellaneous; Coal Ships for War; The Hedleys in the West Indies; J. Clark, Printer; The Antislavery Literature Project.

Bruce Springsteen Recommends Joe Klein's 'Woody Guthrie: A Life'. Woody Guthrie was one of the greatest folk singers America ever produced, a friend of the trade union movement, who had he lived, would have turned 97 on July 14 this year. Klein's book is considered to be the best biography of him, just now reissued in paperback, with a new afterword by the author.

From Manchester to Spain by Bernard Barry. New booklet dedicated to the men and women of Greater Manchester who went to the aid of the Spanish people in their fight against fascism in the 1930s, and to the many more who gave their support from home. It uses the extensive

International Brigade archive at the Working Class Movement Library in Salford. £5 plus £2 p&p from the Library, 51 The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WX.

The Story of George Brown. DVD about the working class activist and member of the XV International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. Produced by the George Brown Memorial Committee. Available £14 inc. p&p from Martin Gahan, Ballinamona, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland. martingahan@eircom.net.

Wedlock. Georgian Britain's Worst Husband Met His Match. Wendy Moore. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. £18.99. ISBN 978 0 297 85331 2, New book about Mary Eleanor Bowes, Lady Strathmore, and her notorious abuser 2nd husband Andrew Storey. It has had a good review in August's *History Today*.

Canada and Slavery. Canada has a reputation for being the end of the line for slaves escaping from the United States along the Underground Railway. But it also has a past of involvement in the slavery business. A new book *Done with Slavery. The Black Fact in Montreal 1760-1840* by Frank Mackey is being published in February 2010 by McGill-Queens University Press. ISBN 9780773535787. Mackey uncovers largely unknown aspects of the black transition from slavery to freedom. He has previously written *Black Then: Blacks and Montreal, 1780s-1880s*. M-QUP books are handled by Marston Book Services. www.pubeasy.com.

The British Atlantic World. Romantic Ecologies and Colonial Cultures in the British Atlantic World, 1770-1850 is the title of a new book by Kevin Hutchings being published by McGill-Queens in August. He demonstrates how contemporary understandings of animality, climate and habitat informed literary and cross-cultural debates about race slavery, colonialism and nature in the British Atlantic world. He reveals a dialogue between British, African and Native American writers of the Romantic period. ISBN 9780773535794. M-QUP books are handled by Marston Book Services. www.pubeasy.com.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Not in My Name Petition was handed to the European Parliament on 14 July to say that the two BNP MEPs taking their seats do not speak for Britain. Over 80,000 people had signed it. See: <http://action.hopenothate.org.uk>.

Freeman's Site on Clapham Rd. It turns out that the changes being sought to the planning applications outlined in HSAN 11 were based on erroneous information being passed around the Stockwell area. The changes in housing proportions were apparently triggered by the need to get in more disabled units to fit Lambeth criteria. The developers tried out a few ideas for cost savings with Lambeth Council officers but were told firmly not to make any changes to a scheme which had gone through so much public involvement. As the houses and flats for sale on the site have all been sold, so the developers are contracted with all these purchasers not to make any changes. They simply couldn't delete houses that have been sold or pedestrian ways through the site. The present owners have apparently never expected Freemans to return to the site - although the previous owners had said that Freemans had given them a commitment to return. That makes no difference to the fact that the development will contain the approved amount of commercial offices for which tenants will have to be found. The confusion of course could have been avoided if both the developers and the Council had been regularly updating residents on what was happening.

Are You A Freelance Musician/Writer or Know Any? John Smith is a student at the University of Hertfordshire who is conducting a project looking into how musicians and writers do not have a job for life but have a career which is constantly changing. This project is looking into the differences between musicians and writers and how they deal with having a chameleon career. He would be grateful if individual musicians and writers would complete a survey by following a link below. If you are not a musician or a writer please pass this information on

to musicians and writers that you know of even if they are just starting up. <http://tinyurl.com/nvdorj>; <http://preview.tinyurl.com/nvdorj>; <http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dEFDdW9Ua0VUazNNR0ZXRIQtVGtEZHc6MA>.

Water Affordability. York University has published a report for the Consumer Council for Water investigating the use of the tax and benefit systems to address the problem of water affordability. The Council hopes the work will stimulate discussion of the issue and would welcome any thoughts on it:

www.ccwater.org.uk/server.php?show=nav.000100p001&targetBlock=692&viewPage=1

Energy Customers Are Being Overcharged More than £1.6 Billion. New research by Consumer Focus shows that energy customers are being overcharged by a combined £1.66 billion this year (£74 per household), as declining wholesale costs have not been fully passed on by suppliers.

CABx Get Busier. Fuel debt cases were up by 19% last year but there are many more miserable post recession statistics at:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/pressoffice/press_index/press_20090610

Consumer Affairs Downgraded. Consumer Affairs has been downgraded at Ministerial level by being bundled in with Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs. *Which?* says this move raises serious concerns over the importance the government places on consumer interests and competition policy.

More Pressure to Move to Universal Water Metering. A new report backs a move to universal water metering. www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/industry/water-charging-review/interim-report.htm.

Prepayment Meters. The National Housing Federation has attacked Ofgem for being asleep on the job, and protecting the profits of big business over prepayment meters. It's lawyers reckon that all the overcharging that has been going on breaches EU

directives. www.housing.org.uk/default.aspx?tabid=212&mid=828&ctl=Details&ArticleID=2207

Mural to John Charles de Menezes. The Justice4Jean Campaign has launched an online petition on the 4th anniversary of Jean's death, calling on Transport for London and London Mayor Boris Johnson to allow a Mosaic of Jean Charles de Menezes to be erected outside Stockwell Tube station as a permanent memorial. The petition reads as follows: "We the undersigned call on Transport for London and the Mayor of London to allow the Mosaic of Jean Charles de Menezes to be erected outside Stockwell Tube station as a permanent memorial. Jean Charles De Menezes was an innocent man who died in tragic circumstances after being shot dead by police in 2005. His story has touched people worldwide. The family and local community have maintained a temporary shrine for 4 years, outside Stockwell station, to express the huge amount of public sympathy about the manner and circumstances in which he died. We believe the mosaic, made by the family of Jean Charles with local artists, represents the best and most fitting replacement to this shrine - it celebrates his short life whilst ensuring his tragic death is never forgotten." To sign the petition go to www.thepetitionsite.com/120/justice-for-jean---never-forget

Policing Protest. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has published its report on policing of the G20 protests. Headline recommendations are that the police:

- Facilitate peaceful protest
- Improve dialogue with protest groups where possible
- Improve communication with the public
- Moderate impact of containment when used
- Improve training to equip officers to deal with the full spectrum of protest activity

- Wear clear identification at all times

And that:

- National guidance on the policing of protest needs overhauling by ACPO.

The report is available at <http://inspectrates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/docs/ap/>

Policing London Consultation. This year's public consultation to inform the Metropolitan Policing Authority's *Policing London* Business Plan has now started. The questionnaire is available online at www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/policingplans. Respondents can also request a paper copy by calling 020 7202 0063 and leaving their name and contact details. The consultation closes on 30 November. The MPA wants to have as broad a range of respondents as possible.

Scenarios for Civil Society. The Shape of Civil Society. Report summarising the findings of a series of events held by the Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society in the UK and Ireland to help it focus on the most 'burning issues' facing civil society, looking towards 2025. The Inquiry is being run funded by Carnegie UK Trust. For details see: www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk.

Threat to Civil Society Independence. The July National Coalition for Independent Action newsletter is full of stories about more and more commentators and leading figures in the community and voluntary sector beginning to realise that the sector's independence is being dangerously eroded. Even Stuart Hetherington of National Council for Voluntary Organisations is now urging action to protect the sector. To read the detail go to www.independentaction.net.

'BREAKING BARRIERS' SUFFRAGETTE EXHIBITION

'Breaking Barriers' is a small exhibition touring Essex until June next year organised by Parliamentary Outreach. It explores the lives of local suffragists and suffragettes, and how their stories are relevant to modern audiences. The exhibition was developed in partnership between The Women's Library, Essex County Council, Rethink, Epping Forest Museum and Southend Discovery Museum. Working with Rethink, a mental health charity, artist Rachel Gadsden helped its members look at the history of Parliament, how past communities got their voices heard and what this means for engaging with Parliament today. Artwork produced by Rachel and the group is on display as part of the exhibition.

'Breaking Barriers' is at the following venues:

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|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Southend Museum | to 29 August |
| Brentwood Library | 19 September-22 November |
| Epping Forest Museum | 9 January-14 March 2010 |
| Chelmsford Library | 27 March-30 May 2010 |
| Colchester Library | 19 June-5 September 2010 |

There are also special object handling sessions. For further information on the 'Breaking Barriers' programme, contact Rebecca Fawcett, Cultural Programmes Manager at Parliamentary Outreach, at fawcett@parliament.uk

1919 RACE RIOTS - BASA & THE EQUIANO CENTRE ONE DAY SYMPOSIUM November - Call for papers and participation

2009 marks the 90th anniversary of race riots that took hold of British cities during 1919. They began in Glasgow in January and by the end of the summer men had been shot in the streets of Cardiff. In Liverpool the West Indian seaman Charles Wootten was chased to his death in the Mersey by a mob 200 strong and in Newport over 30 people were charged with 'assaults' on the police. In London white women's sexuality was blamed for attacks on their husbands, boyfriends or total strangers. Individuals and families saw their furniture thrown out on to the streets and

burned along with their homes. In response black people came together to hold open meetings and wrote letters to the press demanding equality and safety from violence as former soldiers and equal citizens. Reflecting on the “pogroms” in 1932 the *Negro Worker* firmly placed the blame for the majority of the violence on “ship owners and trade union reformists” (Vol. 2. No. 3. March 1932, 2-3).

This one day symposium to be held in November seeks to bring interdisciplinary scholars together to discuss the class, gender and geographical histories of Britain in 1919 through the lens of the riots and consider future avenues for research. Scholars are invited to submit abstracts (300 words) for short papers (15 - 30 minutes) which may cover but are not limited to discussions of:

- the macro and micro geographies of the riots
- personal memories/memoirs of the riots
- the representations of the riots in the media
- the role of unions in the organisation of the riots or challenging the rioters.
- the reaction to the riots from British, American (North, Central and South America) and European political parties
- the representation of women in the lead up to and during the riots
- the impact of the riots upon multi-cultural families and the communities of which they were a part.

SLAVERY & ABOLITION SPECIAL ISSUE

The latest issue of the journal *Slavery & Abolition* (June 2009) is a special one 'Remembering Slave Trade Abolition: Reflections on 2007 in International Perspective' compiled by guest editors Diana Paton and Jane Webster. Both editors are at the School of Historical Studies at Newcastle University. Diana Paton was a member of the Steering Group of the Tyne & Wear 2007 Remembering Slavery Project. Most of the articles were presented at the 'Remembering Slave Trade Abolitions' conference held in Newcastle in November 2007. In addition to an editorial review of 2007 the articles are:

- Annie Paul. Do You Remember the Days of Slav'ry? Connecting the Present with the Past in Contemporary Jamaica
- Karl Watson. Barbados and the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade.
- Manu Herstein. Reflections in a Shattered Glass: The British Council's Celebrations of the Bicentenary of the 1807 Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in Ghana.
- Benjamin W. Kankpeyeng. The Slave Trade in Northern Ghana: Landmarks, Legacies and Connections.
- Madge Dresser. Remembering Slavery and Abolition in Bristol.
- Sheree Mack. Black Voices and Absences in Commemorations of Abolition in North East England.
- Geoffrey Cubitt. Bringing it Home: Making Local Meaning in 2007 Bicentenary Exhibitions.
- Diana Paton. Interpreting the Bicentenary in Britain.
- Alan Rice. Revealing Histories, Dialogising Collections: Museums and Galleries in North West England Commemorating the Abolition of the Slave Trade.
- Jane Webster. The Unredeemed Object: Displaying Abolitionist Artefacts in 2007.
- Jacqueline Francis. *The Brooks Slave Ship Icon: A 'Universal Symbol'?*

For details of how to purchase see www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/0144039x.asp

(RE)FIGURING HUMAN ENSLAVEMENT: IMAGES OF POWER, VIOLENCE AND RESISTANCE

My essay ““Slavery is Sustained by the Purchase of its Productions”:. *The Slave; His Wrongs and Their Remedy* Newspaper (1851-1856)' has just been published in a volume *(Re)figuring Human Enslavement: Images of Power, Violence and Resistance*, edited by Ulrich Pallua, Adrian Knapp, Andreas Exenberger and published by the University of Innsbruck Press contains the following

essays.

Ulrich Pallua. Discursive Strategies in Fixing Images of Power: The Enslaved 'Other' in Miller's *Art and Nature* and Kotzebue's *The Negro Slaves*

Helen Mears. Silver Service Slavery: The Black Presence in the White Home

Franca Dellarosa. Re-Constructing Toussaint in the Romantic Era: History, Agency and the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804)

Adrian Knapp. Resisting "Humanitarian Romanticism"? Thomas Pringle's *Pangola: An African Tale*

Judith Jennings. Religion, Liberty, Violence, and Resistance in the Writings of Two Early Female Abolitionists

Angela M. Leonard. The Act of Remembering the "Dis-Remembered": Sorting Out the Memorialisation of Liverpool and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Daniel Livesay. All in the Family: Mixed-race Jamaicans and their Imperial Networks in the Eighteenth Century

Arno Sonderegger. A One-Sided Controversy: James Hunt and Africanus Horton on *The Negro's Place in Nature*

Marcus Belben. A Shared Language: Creative Learning and Slavery

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BLACK EMANCIPATION AND THE WORKING CLASS 1815-1838

On 13 July I gave a talk to HistoryTalk, the Kensington Community History Group, on Black Emancipation and the Working Class 1815-38. I suggested that both labour and abolition historians have neglected to look in detail at the inter-relationship. Many labour movement books on the period do not mention the campaign for the abolition of slavery, while works on the abolition movement do not look at the involvement of the working class. I reviewed the main events in the struggle for black freedom, political reform and working class organisation and campaigning. I explored some of the complex dynamics involved: William Wilberforce's fear of working class radicalism and Jacobinism and his support for suppression of political freedoms and working class leisure activities, and the perceived hypocrisy of employer abolitionists who were criticised for not being concerned as well about the welfare of their 'wage slaves'. I suggested that the scale of abolition petitioning meant that workers must have been a significant proportion of signers. There were linkages between political reform and abolition in elections. Those deprived of a vote could make their views clear at election meetings. I examined the crucial role of the Spenceans in militant working class/artisan activity, and of their black members William Davidson and Robert Wedderburn, as well as the leading role among London Chartists of William Cuffay. I pointed out that in relation to the argument about hypocrisy the racism of William Cobbett was different from the economic analysis of Bronterre O'Brien who warned black slaves of the dangers of becoming wage slaves. The betrayal of the working class in the limited reforms of the Reform Act caused splits between working and middle-class activists. It seems clear that the wide political debates about rights and freedom influenced both the abolition movement from its gradual to immediate emancipation policy as well as the development of the working class concept of 'wage slavery'. It would be dangerous to conclude that all those critical of abolitionists' attitudes to the plight of the working class were against emancipation. We know very little about the actual attitude of the majority of the growing complexity of diverse groups within the growing working class to black emancipation.

The evidence base for Patricia Hollis's 1980 negative assessment 'Anti-slavery and British working-class radicalism in the years of reform' is very thin. With full emancipation in the West Indies in 1838, with its concentration on emancipation in the United States, abolitionism entered a period when its link with reform in Britain looked as if it had been severed. The criticism of hypocrisy does seem to grow from this point. The issues about the relationship between Black American slaves and the British working class were to become different. In her 1984 book *Abolitionists and Working-Class Problems in the Age of Industrialization* Betty Fladeland does not talk about working class attitudes to abolition in detail. I concluded that until there is a joint dialogue between labour movement and abolitionist historians and an agreed research programme, we will never know what the complex truth about working class attitudes to black emancipation between 1815 and 1838 were. Interestingly it is now 25 years since Fladeland suggested something similar.