

## HISTORY & SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

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No.15 - 11 October 2009

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### INFORMATION REQUEST

**Prince of Wales Drive Mansion Blocks.** I have had an enquiry about the history of the Prince of Wales Drive mansion blocks opposite Battersea Park. Very little seems to have been written about them. But many interesting people have lived in them. If any of my readers have information or know of people who lived in them please let me know.

### EVENTS

(see also No. 14 for previously featured October and November events)

**(Re-Wandsworth events:** at African Caribbean Library, Battersea District Library, Lavender Hill. Free but booking essential: 8871 7466. For full programme see:  
[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/1871/black\\_history\\_month\\_2009](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/1871/black_history_month_2009).)

**Institute of Historical Research (IHR) Seminars:** Unless otherwise stated they are held at IHR, Senate House, Malet St/Russell Square, London, W1.

**To 8 November. Fabric of a Nation. Textiles and Identity in Modern Ghana.** British Museum touring exhibition. Wardown Park Museum. Old Bedford Rd, Luton, LU2. I have seen this exhibition elsewhere. It is very interesting. Free. There is also a display of Kente from Ghana, and work by the New Horizons Textile Group inspired by Ghanaian symbols and fabrics.

**At various times of the year. East End Walks.** Tour 1: The Radical Jewish East End. Tour 2: Antifascist footprints. For more details see [www.eastendwalks.com](http://www.eastendwalks.com)

**14 October. 6pm. Henry Hunt and William Cobbett.** Lecture and book signing by Penny Young. Harris Museum & Art Gallery in Preston. Henry Hunt is one of the leading figures in *Industrial Revolutionaries*, an exhibition coming to the Harris in 2010, for his part in electoral reform. By 1830, Preston was one of the few towns in England that had given the vote to all males who paid taxes. This contributed to the controversial election of radical candidate Henry 'Orator' Hunt, the famous Peterloo speaker and political campaigner. Hunt was beloved by the workers of Preston and sensationally defeated the aristocratic candidate Edward Stanley in an 1830 by-election. Penny is the author of *Two Cocks on the Dunghill - William Cobbett and Henry Hunt, their friendship, feuds and fights*. Places are limited, please call to book on 01772 905414. Tickets are £5 each, £3 concessions.

**14 October. 5.30pm. Class, Race and Rock and Roll: England and Popular Music Since the 1950s.** Lecture by Keith Gildart (Wolverhampton University and co-editor of the Dictionary of Labour Biography), will talk on his forthcoming book discussing representations of English social/political change through performance, song and youth culture. Manchester University, Roscoe Building, Room 1.001. Manchester Labour History Seminar. For more details please email [shirin.hirsch@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:shirin.hirsch@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk).

**14 October. 7-8.30pm. Hakim Adi. West African Students Union - a photographic history.** Wandsworth.

**15 October. 6.30pm. The Real Third Way - Civic Society & Its Independence.** 21<sup>st</sup> Century Network meeting about the tension caused within the voluntary sector through commissioning to larger voluntary groups and the implications for civil society. House of Commons. See: <http://21st-centurynetwork.com/blog/?p=1404>

**16 October, 7.30pm. Celebration of Life Concert.** Metropolitan Black Police Association. Royal Festival Hall. £15, (£10 Conc) + booking fee. Concert supporting the Revival anti-violence campaign, which focuses on the need to cherish and respect all life. Artists include Maxi Priest, Carleen Anderson, Yolanda Brown, and the London Community Gospel Choir. Call the box office on 0871 663 2500 to book your tickets, or visit The Royal Festival Hall website.

**17 October. 10am-5pm. State of Black Britain Symposium.** The Royal Commonwealth Club, 25 Northumberland Ave, London, WC2. Exhibition opens at 8.30am. The purpose of SOBBS is to create an annual forum for a national dialogue that will evaluate progress, develop strategies, and encourage relevant action around the social, political, economic and other issues that are of concern to African and Caribbean communities within the UK, and to facilitate ongoing engagement with the issues through various publications and media. There will be 4 panels throughout the day: Religion, Politics, Law & Order; Family, Education & Young People; Economics, Enterprise & Development; The New Black Future. For further information see: [www.thestateofblackbritainsymposium.com](http://www.thestateofblackbritainsymposium.com); or contact [info@thestateofblackbritainsymposium.com](mailto:info@thestateofblackbritainsymposium.com).

**18 October. 11am. Anti-fascist Footprints.** East End Radical Walk. Book online at [www.eastendwalks.com](http://www.eastendwalks.com).

**19 October . 5pm. Imperial History and the Human Future.** An Inaugural Lecture by Richard Drayton (KCL). The Great Hall, Kings College, London. IHR Imperial and World History Seminar.

**20 October. 7-8.30pm. Caz Bressey. White Women, Black History.** Wandsworth.

**21 October. 1pm. Jazz, photographs and YouTube: using modern media to enrich research on twentieth century Africa.** Talk by Dr Susan Williams, Senior Fellow, Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Sandwiches from 12.30pm. SCOLMA Seminar (UK Library and Archives Group on Africa). Venue: Room ST275, Stewart House, 32 Russell Square, London, WC1. Please contact Marilyn Glanfield (email: [meg23@cam.ac.uk](mailto:meg23@cam.ac.uk); 01223 334398) if you wish to attend indicating whether you would like sandwiches). SCOLMA: [www2.llse.ac.uk/library/scolma/welcome.htm](http://www2.llse.ac.uk/library/scolma/welcome.htm).

**22 October. Protest at the BBC's Wood Lane Centre, London against the BBC inviting Nazi BNP leader Nick Griffin onto Question Time.** Pickets from 9am onwards, main demonstration starts at 5pm. Unite Against Fascism.

**24 October. 2pm. Ewan McColl Memorial Concert** to coincide with the 20th anniversary of his death on 22 October. Further details of Glasgow tickets from [www.caledonian.ac.uk/politicalsong](http://www.caledonian.ac.uk/politicalsong),

**24 October. 7.30pm. Celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the birth of William Morris.** William Morris House, 267 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 (opposite the Polka Theatre). The evening will hear about when Morris set up and ran his world renowned arts and crafts company at Merton Abbey Mills. Short illustrated presentation by Dave Saxby (Museum of London & author of *William Morris in Merton*. He will show previously unpublished pictures of the Morris & Co works. Also on display will be two original restored stained glass windows produced by William Morris and designed by Edward Burne Jones at the Mills. The windows were presented to William Morris House by a local family and installed in the building until they were removed for safekeeping. [www.williammorris.org.uk](http://www.williammorris.org.uk).

**25 October. 2.30pm. When Adelaide Hall Went To War.** Talk by Stephen Bourne. Imperial War Museum.

**27 October. 7-9pm. Living Ancestors, the Science of Longevity.** Science Museum. Natalie Charles, Caribbean healthy lifestyle educator, and longevity food expert) will share her knowledge of Caribbean super foods, herbs and philosophy live by video linkup from Antigua throughout the event. She suggested the series of portraits of women over the age of a hundred in Dominica which Gabrielle La Roux undertook the work for. The Living Ancestors portraits will be shown as a projected audiovisual installation. Free but you need to contact the organisers to book a place: [www.danacentre.org.uk/events/2009/10/27/533](http://www.danacentre.org.uk/events/2009/10/27/533)

**27 October. 7.30pm. Ewan McColl Memorial Concert.** Peel Hall, Salford University. Peggy Seeger; supported by Sandra Kerr, John Faulkner, David Ferrard, Bob Blair and Brian Pearson. Tickets from <http://froots.wegotickets.com/froots.php>.

**31 October. 2pm. "Remembering Refugees".** Lecture by Tony Kushner. Working Class Movement Library. Professor Kushner teaches at the University of Southampton, where his main research area is British Jewish history in the late 19th and 20th centuries, covering the social history of British Jewry, immigration issues and responses to the Jews. He also has a strong interest in the Holocaust, refugee movements, immigration and ethnicity in modern British history and general issues of history, representation and the heritage industry. His published work includes *Traditions of intolerance: historical perspectives on fascism and race discourse in Britain*, *The persistence of prejudice: antisemitism in Britain during the Second World War* and *Remembering Cable Street: fascism and anti-fascism in British society*. His book *Remembering refugees: then and now* was published in 2006 by Manchester University Press. Free.

**31 October. Remembering Feargus O'Connor.** See flier at the end Newsletter.

**1 November. 11am. The Radical Jewish East End.** East End Radical Walk. Book online at [www.eastendwalks.com](http://www.eastendwalks.com).

**2 November. 5pm. The Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Effects on the Indian Ocean.** Shihan de Silva (ICS). IHR Imperial and World History Seminar.

**2 November. 7pm. Gwen Southgate - Coin Street Chronicles.** Waterloo Library, 114-118 Lower Marsh. SE1. Tale of real-life drama set in the 1930s and 1940s on London's South Bank - now a cultural showcase, but then a grimy, raucous underbelly of the city. Among the books many colourful characters are big-hearted, garrulous, chain-smoking Aunt-mum; yarn-spinning, practical joker Grampa Benson; and Gwen Southgate's unquenchable, much-married, and perhaps bigamous, mother. The scene changes during World War II, when evacuation from London at the age of ten opens up wider horizons for Gwen Southgate and her two younger brothers. The memoir ends as she, finally, escapes the culture of poverty after a determined struggle spearheaded by her feisty mother.

**4 November. 6-7.30-pm. Herman Ross. Black People Don't Sail.** Black & Asian History Seminar organised by Marika Sherwood at Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Room G32, Senate House, Malet St/ Russell Square, London, WC1. Everyone is welcome. You do not have to pre-book/register. Seminars are free. Herman explains:

'My presentation deals with the concept of the movement of information by African born/descent mariners who were able to experience the reality of the worlds outside the North American slave experience. They passed on information to inland mariners, coastal mariners, dock workers and plantation labourers who were unloading cargo.' The presentation will be focusing upon more than the movement of information and will concentrate on how the black mariner was possibly one of the most important ingredients in the formation of the pan African concept. I will also be focusing on British American maritime history and the contributions of the enslaved toward the refinement of the most important maritime development in contemporary

history, the fore and aft rig. This rig enabled the vastly more efficient transportation of products between islands, along coasts, and further up rivers and in turn created settlements that became cities. This maritime history of the first British colonies is not easily obtainable because of a strange reluctance by both the United States and Britain to share a history. I hope a discussion on all of these topics will be an energetic one. The title, which was changed at the last minute by me, should open debate about the reasoning that keeps this myth alive today. I have spent over thirty years researching Northern Caribbean British Colonial commercial sailing designs and placing them in their important section of maritime history that sent an efficient fore and aft rig to Europe. This is a piece of maritime history that Britain should be proud of even if it is the development of British slaves.'

**6 November. 'I Have Done the State Some Service': Othello, Robeson and the FBI.** V&A drinks reception to celebrate Paul Robeson. Tickets are only £10 before 16 October 2009. The evening includes The Robeson Project Display, specially written pieces by Professor Tony Howard to be staged for the first time featuring actor Geff Francis (Ashes to Ashes, BBC1 and Desmonds, Channel 4). Howard will explore Robeson's work using film footage, clips, stills & slides. Part of the Victoria & Albert's V&A's Beneath the Surface Black Heritage Season 2009: see [www.vam.ac.uk/activ\\_events/events/Black\\_Heritage\\_Season/index.html](http://www.vam.ac.uk/activ_events/events/Black_Heritage_Season/index.html)

**7 November. 10am-4pm. *The Voices of Northumberland at War: the use of oral testimony.*** One day course in association with the North-East Centre for Lifelong Learning. Woodhorn Museum, Ashington, Northumberland. **Tutor:** Dr Liz O'Donnell, of Northumberland Collections Service and the University of Sunderland. Day school exploring the debates surrounding the use of oral history in interpreting the past. The current Woodhorn **Northumberland at War** exhibition, will act as a case study for the topic. There will also be a chance to hear extracts from some of the 600 oral history recordings held in the County archives and an opportunity to consider the practical and ethical issues involved in gathering oral testimonies. The emphasis will be on small group work and discussion, as we tackle questions such as: *What is the value of oral history? How accurate is oral testimony? How have historians used oral history interviews? How can we go about organising an oral history project?* Normally only available to subscribers to the North-East Centre for Lifelong Learning, there are a limited number of places to offer free of charge to the general public. To book or find out more information, contact: LO'Donnell@woodhorn.org.uk; 01670 528045.

**9 November: 5pm. Jonathan Saha (SOAS), 'The Male State: Colonialism, Corruption, and Rape Investigations in the Irrawaddy Delta c.1900'.** IHR Colonial/Post-colonial Workshops for Postgraduates and New Researchers Seminar.

**14 November. 3pm-2am. Peace House 50th Anniversary Celebration and Benefit.** The Cross Kings, 126 York Way, King's Cross, London N1 OAX. Peace House, at Caledonian Road in King 's Cross, London, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Over the years the building has housed a host of progressive campaign groups.

3-6pm. Reunion tea party, featuring political street choir Raised Voices + more to be announced. Free entry.

6pm - 2am. Songs from the frontline with Joe Wilkes; Ian Saville, conjures his Magic for Socialism. Celebrating his 50th year of performing, political folk from Leon Rosselson plus the all-female five-piece Freylekh Klezmer Dance Band, followed by DJs till 2am. More to be announced. Tickets £9

8.30pmff. In the Jester Bar. Political and alternative comedy, hosted by Robin Ince, featuring anarchist transvestite Andrew O'Neill, Natalie Haynes, and Colin Watson, and music from Martin White, Phil Jeys and Joanna Neary. DJs till 2am. Tickets £8.50

**Benefit Tickets:** Free entry for Reunion Tea Party. £9 for evening entertainment in the Main Room. £8.50 for ticket for Robin Ince and Friends in the Jester Bar. To purchase tickets or for more info please call: 020 7837 4473 or visit [www.housmans.com/peacehouse.php](http://www.housmans.com/peacehouse.php)

**15 November. Rising From the East. 11amff.** Day School about the communities, culture and politics of the East End that will take place at Toynbee Hall on (entry £5/£3). Speakers include

Ben Gidley on the Jewish anarchists, Georgie Wemyss on the East India Company, Janine Booth on Minnie Lansbury, John Eversley on doctors and politics in the East End, David Mazower on the Workers' Circle movement and Ansar Ahmed Ullah on the changing politics of the East End Bengali community. Toynbee Hall, 28 Commercial St, London, E1. Places limited. Book in advance £53 (£3 concessions); cheque/PO to JSG, BM 3725, London, WC1N 3XX. More details will be posted on [www.jewishsocialist.org.uk](http://www.jewishsocialist.org.uk).

**16 November. 5pm. Sub-Saharan Africa and Global Economic History'. Gareth Austin (LSE). IHR Imperial and World History Seminar.**

**18 November. 2-6pm. Communities and Archives.** The Women's Library. Old Carlisle Street, London, E1..Symposium arranged by Sir John Cass School of Arts, Media and Design at London Metropolitan University, to discuss building a photographic archive for the future - the selection, collection and digitisation of photographic material and debate the role the photographic archive plays in representing the lives of local communities. The event will make special reference to the London Metropolitan University Eastend Archive.

[www.vads.ac.uk/collections/EEP.html](http://www.vads.ac.uk/collections/EEP.html). Participants: Melanie Manchot, artist/photographer; Dr. Jenny Harding, Susan Andrews and Mick Williamson, (LMU Eastend Archive project team); Mike Seaborne, Museum of London. The event will make special reference to the London Metropolitan University Eastend Archive.[www.vads.ac.uk/collections/EEP.html](http://www.vads.ac.uk/collections/EEP.html). Booking essential 020 7320 1903, [s.andrews@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:s.andrews@londonmet.ac.uk)

**23 November: 5pm. Uditi Sen (Cambridge), 'Imperial needs vs. national claims: the (de)colonisation of the Andaman Islands'. Colonial/Post-colonial Workshops for Postgraduates and New Researchers Seminar at Institute of Historical Research.**

**24 November. 6pm. "Strength to stand firm in the fight: The impact of early British Islam'. In this Black & Asian Studies Association Marika Sherwood Lecture Steve Martin will review the centuries of contact between Britain and the Islamic World. From Peter the Saracen in early 13th century Northampton to Black African political activists and Victorian converts Steve will consider how currents of trade, migration, war, scientific and cultural exchange in both directions fashioned the notions which inform contemporary opinion on both sides. Venue to be finalised. Contact me for further details.**

**25 November, 5.30pm. Jazz and the Labour Movement.** Chris Searle, author of *Forward Groove: Jazz and the Real World from Louis Armstrong to Gilad Atzmon and Director of Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Centre*, will lead off the discussions on jazz and the labour movement. Manchester Labour History Seminar. For more details please email [shirin.hirsch@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:shirin.hirsch@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk).

**28 November 11am-1pm. Society for the Study of Labour History Seminar**, in association with the Labour and Society Research Group (Newcastle). Northumbria University, Lipman Building, Sandyford Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne. Speakers: Peter Kirby (University of Manchester), 'St Monday and the Miners, 1775-1884; Keith Shaw and John Griffiths (Northumbria University), 'De-Mystifying T. Dan Smith'. Admission is free and open to the public. Followed by:

**28 November. 1-2pm. Society for the Study of Labour History Annual General Meeting.**

**29 November. Anti-Fascist Footprints.** East End Radical Walk. Book online at [www.eastendwalks.com](http://www.eastendwalks.com).

**30 November. 5pm. "We Shall not be Free Until South Africa is Free!" Black British Solidarity with the Anti-Apartheid Movement.** Talk. Elizabeth M. Williams (Goldsmiths). IHR Imperial and World History Seminar.

**7 December: 5pm. Black West Indians in Britain and the politics of empire, c. 1931-1948.**

Daniel Whitall (Royal Holloway, University of London). IHR Colonial/Post-colonial Workshops for Postgraduates and New Researchers Seminar. Daniel is a member of the BASA Committee, and is joint guest editor for a special BASA newsletter on the League of Coloured Peoples.

**16 December, 5.30pm. The Cultural and Political Life of Ewan MacColl'**. Ben Harker, lecturer in Cultural Studies at Salford University, and author will lead off the discussions on Ewan MacColl and the cultural debate in the 1950s British left. Manchester Labour History Seminar. For more details please email [shirin.hirsch@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:shirin.hirsch@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk).

## NEWS & INFORMATION

**East End Shared Histories.** The Shared Histories community history group can be seen on [www.sharedhistory.org.uk/1.html](http://www.sharedhistory.org.uk/1.html)

**"Union Bread"**, Larry Wayne's History of the London Jewish Bakers Union is available for £6 plus 75p p&p from JSG, BM 3725, London WC1N 3XX.

**Tooting Local History Group.** Rex Osborn, a Wandsworth Labour Councillor, John Rattray, a former Wandsworth Conservative Councillor and now Green Party activist, and Dale Ingram a local conservationist architect, have been reviving Tooting Local History Group. Rex and John lead walks. London Walks has agreed to include Rex's Tooting Town Centre walk as a commercial walk in their programme so it will be advertised London wide. When Tooting Library re-opens following its refurbishment in February the Group is planning two public meetings with speakers: the History of Tooting Library, and the Heaver Estate. The Group plans to survey St. Nicholas's churchyard, to get a proper map and record the graves and other features. The Group is also discussing with Tooting Library's Management Advisory Committee providing sessions on local and family history. Rex will be talking about the History of Tooting to Merton Historical Society on 13 February. The Group can be kept in touch with through its Facebook site.

**Centre for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism.** I have been in discussions with a number of people as to what can be done to help the Centre come out of its funding crisis. I have made a number of suggestions to the University Vice-Chancellor. Meanwhile the latest newsletter of the Centre states the following on the crisis: 'We have received many encouraging and worried emails concerning the future existence of the CRFF as a result of our last newsletter. The general situation remains critical and the next few weeks will decide the future survival of organised academic research into freemasonry and fraternalism at academic institutions in the United Kingdom. Extensive negotiations will take place regarding how to best secure past, present and potential future achievements in the area. There are many actors involved in the process and we notice that letters of support have been submitted to relevant parties. However tempting, the CRFF has not called for any organised support yet. It is easy to become distracted by various scenarios at the moment, but we have decided to work hard on our present short-term commitments. We are dedicated to quality, as always. Frequenting our events and purchasing our publications is currently the best way to show support for the Centre.' [www.freemasonry.dept.shef.ac.uk](http://www.freemasonry.dept.shef.ac.uk).

**Citizens Advice Reaches 70.** October sees the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Citizens Advice. There's a potted history of the problems it has had to deal with between then and now - at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/pressoffice/press\\_index/press\\_20090902](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/pressoffice/press_index/press_20090902). CA has produced a manifesto of entirely reasonable demands - like adequate incomes, affordable homes, fair markets, etc. [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/pressoffice/press\\_index/press\\_20090921](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/pressoffice/press_index/press_20090921)

**Hope Not Hate.** To keep up with the activities of the anti-BNP campaign Hope not Hate, go to <http://action.hopenothate.org.uk/eventsnarme>

**Journeyman.** Re-edited version of Ewan MacColl's autobiography. Copies will be available at the 24 and 27 October events at special price of £10 (50% discount).

**50 Years of Carnival 1959-2009.** Pamphlet by Tom Vague on Nottinghill Carnival. Contact HISTORYtalk. [info@historytalk.org](mailto:info@historytalk.org); [www.historytalk.org](http://www.historytalk.org).

**Working Class Movement Library Black and Asian History Resources.** The Working Class Movement Library has launched a new set of web pages on its web-site to mark Black History Month. [www.wcml.org.uk/contents/black-and-asian-history](http://www.wcml.org.uk/contents/black-and-asian-history). It has the following Sections: Black and Asian struggles, 1960s-1980s; Race Today; Paul Robeson; William Cuffay; William Davidson; CLR James; (1901-1989), Len Johnson; Pan African Congress, Manchester 1945.

**Workers Education Association.** Founded in Battersea in 1903 the WEA has recently come out of a difficult period given the Government's destructive funding schemes and abandonment of life-long learning in favour of narrow job training. The WEA is pulling through and revitalising itself. To keep up to date, to find out about how to join, and WEA events in your area visit: [www.wea.org.uk/index.htm](http://www.wea.org.uk/index.htm).

**Churchill 1945.** The Conservatives want to ensure that Winston Churchill is back into the history curriculum. Quite right; warts and all, including the fact he was not always popular. During the 1945 General Election Churchill was heavily booed at Walthamstow Stadium the audience demanding "We want Attlee". Next day Churchill himself was nearly hurt on Tooting Bec Common, South London when 17 year old Michael Gloor Le Pelley, tossed a lit firecracker at him. During the War Churchill had been booed when visiting bombed out families and later avoided the East End.

**University Funding.** Further to my piece on the University funding crisis Lampeter is going to be merged and become a new University and have money from the Government to do it. See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/80/1/hi/wales/mid/8285902.stm>.

**Visiting Manchester.** Then have a look at the new website [www.creativetourist.com](http://www.creativetourist.com). created by the Manchester Museums Consortium, a group of nine museums and galleries in Manchester, including the People's History Museum. The People's re-opens early next year.

**International Trade Union Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons.** The International Trade Union Confederation, UNI Global Union, the Japanese national trade union centre RENGO and others have launched a major international campaign against nuclear weapons. [www.breakingthroughforpeace.org](http://www.breakingthroughforpeace.org).

***Revolutions in the Atlantic World. A Comparative History.*** William Klooster, Clark University. In the late eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, revolutions transformed the British, French, and Spanish Atlantic worlds. During this time, colonial and indigenous people rioted and rebelled against their occupiers in violent pursuit of political liberty and economic opportunity, challenging time-honoured social and political structures on both sides of the Atlantic. As a result, mainland America separated from British and Spanish rule, the French monarchy toppled, and the world's wealthiest colony was emancipated. In the new sovereign states, legal equality was introduced, republicanism embraced, and the people began to question the legitimacy of slavery. The author wields a comparative lens to reveal several central themes in the field of Atlantic history, from the concept of European empire and the murky position it occupied between Old and New World to slavery and diasporas. Drawing on both primary documents and extant secondary literature, Klooster portrays the revolutions as parallel and connected uprisings. New York University Press. July 2009. £13.99 pbk. ISBN: 9780814747896. To order: Marston on 44(0)1235 465500 or email [direct.orders@marston.co.uk](mailto:direct.orders@marston.co.uk)

**Association of Friendly Societies.** After 15 years the Association is disappearing this month to merge with the Association of Mutual Insurers to form the Association of Financial Mutuals. Read more on: [www.dailymail.co.uk/80/money/article-1217883/The-Red-Hot-Chilli-Pipers-friendly-societies-final-fling.html#ixzz0T60jeq8C](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/80/money/article-1217883/The-Red-Hot-Chilli-Pipers-friendly-societies-final-fling.html#ixzz0T60jeq8C)

**Independent Advice Centres.** The National Coalition for Independent Action is working with

advice and rights groups in Hackney, Gloucester, Leicester and Cardiff to fight against the effect on local people of oppressive bureaucratic, legislative and political practices and to assert their own autonomy in acting for local people. The picture of independent advice services is common in all four areas: increasing demand for help; inadequate provision of neighbourhood-based advice services, especially for black and minority ethnic communities; cuts to both generalist and specialist advice services. Meanwhile a new Law Centre is being set up in Harrow.

**Campaign to simplify licences for community events.** When I was organising events for the Lambeth Riverside Festival it was a bureaucratic nightmare with high financial costs to try and meet the demands of licences for events on open spaces and even in a former school building. I was even expected to do a risk statement on a history walk through Kennington Park! Well needless to say I did not bother to go any further with the events on the open space and in the former school. [Now a campaign has started to simplify licences for community events:](http://communityevents.22day.ws/CommunityEvents/)  
<http://communityevents.22day.ws/CommunityEvents/>

**Reduced Price Books:** [www.psbooks.co.uk](http://www.psbooks.co.uk)

Three Empires on the Nile. The Victorian Jihad, 1869-1899. Dominic Green. Free Press. 2007. £6.99 down from £37.

The Secret History of the English Occupation of Egypt. Wilfred S Blunt. Nonsuch 2007. £4.99 down from £12.

The Battle for Spain. The Spanish Civil War 1936-1939. Antony Beevor. Weidenfeld & Nicolson 2006. £8.99 down from £25.

Red Mutiny. Mutiny, Revolution and Revenge on the Battleship Potemkin. Neal Bascomb. Weidenfeld & Nicholson. £7.99 down from £20.

Samuel Walters, Lieutenant RN. The Memoirs of an Officer in Nelson's Navy. e.d. C. Northcote Parkinson. Liverpool UP 2007. £4.99 down from £7.95.

The Shelter of the Tubes. Tube Sheltering in Wartime London. John Gregg. Capital Transport 2001. £6.99 down from £16.95.

The Cotton Kingdom. A Traveller's Observations on Cotton and Slavery in the American Slave States. Frederick Law Olmsted. Da Capo. £5.99 down from £17.50.

Hobson-Jobson. The Anglo-Indian Dictionary. Henry Yule & A. C. Burnell. Wordsworth 1996. £3.99

Africa's Armies; From Honour to Infamy. A History from 1791 to the Present. Robert B. Edgerton. Westview 2002. £6.99 down from £17.99.

Concepts of Race in the Eighteenth Century. Ed Robert Bernasconi. 8 vols. Thoemmes. £90. down from £200.

Tom Paine. The Life of a Revolutionary. Harry Harmer. Haus 2006. £4.99 down from £12.99

## REVOLTING LONDON

On Saturday 3 October I was one of the speakers at the Revolting London Conference organised by Archives for London.

**Jack Cade's Rebellion 1450.** Michael Hicks (Winchester University) discussed the Cade rebellion of 1450 which was one ingredient in a massive national crisis, and a phase in the drive for political reform that contributed to the Wars of the Roses and the change of dynasty in 1461. 1449-50 saw a collapse in foreign credit, and the near bankruptcy of the government. The Hundred Years War was lost with humiliating ease. There was a witchhunt in and outside Parliament against the King's Ministers, councillors and household.

**Spa Fields Riots of 1816.** David Sutton spoke about the Spa Fields meetings in November and December 1816 which were the largest public demonstrations London had seen for decades. The violence which ensued ushered in a period of anti-government agitation in London which culminated in the notorious Cato St Conspiracy of 1820.

**From Revolution to New Unionism: the impact of Bloody Sunday on the development of John Burnss' politics (1887-92).** The text of my talk will be available as an HSA PDF Monograph.

**Black Friday 1910.** Teresa Doherty of Women's Library spoke about the peaceful protest of 18 November 1910 which became a riot. Several hundred women were arrested and two died. Despite public opinion being against women's right to vote, there was widespread public protest at police treatment of the campaigners.

**Rally to Aldgate! How the East End stopped Mosley, 1936.** David Rosenberg of East End Walks, explained the background to Mosley's decision to march into the East End, and the campaign to stop him.

**Notting Hill Riots 1958.** Dave Welsh of HISTORYtalk discussed the riots, and the resultant development of wider social movements and campaigns in the North Kensington area.

To my mind the following key issues relating to historical analysis arose:

- How do you count out how many people took part in demonstrations and revolts?
- How do you distinguish between participants and onlookers?
- How can one find out more about the views of ordinary participants and observers to supplement the official, the organisers and the press versions?

But a more important issue is the crisis that emerges from time to time in the police handling of demonstrations. I suggested that Bloody Sunday was not a riot but a state attack on peaceful demonstrators given the way the police charged in military fashion from side roads at the columns of demonstrators as they walked towards Trafalgar Square. The control of demonstrations continues to be a major issue as evidenced by the continuing debate about the handling of the G20 demonstration in April which involved the death of Ian Tomlinson.

***Economics for Everyone: A Short Guide to Capitalism.*** Author Jim Stanford, an economist with the Canadian Auto Workers, thinks economics is too important to be left to economists. This book aims to provide non specialist readers with all the information they need to understand how capitalism works - and how it doesn't. Stanford answers questions such as "What really happens on the stock market?" "Do workers need capitalists?" "Why does capitalism harm the environment?" He offers both a realistic assessment of capitalism's strengths and a robust critique of its many failures. Humorous, educational and well-illustrated. It is being promoted by the international Labour Start website. To order go to:  
<https://ssl30.ppair.com:443/unionist/ccp51/cgi-bin/cp-app.cgi?rrc=N&pg=prod&ref=economics&affl=labourstart>

## DO YOU GET CONFUSED AT LONDON BUS STOPS?

Ann has received the following explanation from Customer Services about the change in policy London Buses has adopted to buses stopping at compulsory and request bus stops.

'There is no longer a distinction between 'Compulsory' and 'Request' bus stops. Since November 2008, drivers have been instructed to serve a stop if there are people waiting there, even if passengers do not put out their hand to flag down the bus. If passengers on the bus wish to alight they should continue to indicate this to the driver by ringing the bell. We did not require passengers to alter the way they use the network, and so no specific communications with passengers were necessary.

The main reason for changing was to formalise what had evolved as existing practice, and to remove confusion. We carried out research in 2005 which showed that passengers did not distinguish between request and compulsory stops, and that the distinction was confusing for some passengers. With that in mind, we undertook a consultation in 2007 about bus stopping arrangements. Local councils, the police, user groups and accessibility groups were invited to share their views, and the results of the consultation indicated broad support for the proposals

to remove any distinction between stops.

In respect of the different stop flags, when bus stops are due for renewal they are all being replaced by the stops featuring the red roundel on a white background as this is the more clearly seen. This should further reduce any confusion regarding different stop types.....'

Nice of London Buses to have mounted a public information campaign to tell us all.

### HARRIS ACADEMY GETS PLUG AS PUBLIC APPOINTMENT

People on the email list to be informed of public appointments received on 29 September the following email from Janice Scanlan and Steve Acklam, the Director of Operations and Chief Executive of the Appointments Commission:

'We understand that helping to improve the quality of public services available to your community is very important to you. That is why you expressed an interest in serving as a non-executive board member of an NHS or other public body. We will continue to alert you to these and other opportunities in which you might be interested, but wondered whether you had ever considered using your skills and experience as a school governor?

The Appointments Commission and the School Governors' One-Stop Shop (SGOSS) are working together to highlight the benefits of being a school governor for you, your community and even your employer. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of a number of school governor opportunities within your local area and how you can get involved. At the present time there are vacancies on governing bodies in the following local school(s):

Harris Academy Merton.....'

How can a school purchased under the Academy programme with an ethos determined by a millionaire be by any definition a public body? When each school is taken over by him out goes the former public Governing Body. If Harris wants Governors let Harris advertise and pay them.

### NARRATIVES OF COMMUNITY AND HOPE: MUSEUMS AND ETHNICITY

Publisher MuseumsEtc is calling for essay submissions for an edited book that will examine museum approaches to the representation of ethnic minorities. It is interested in essays that discuss the forms of cultural participation in the museum as a narrative and interpretative space. It aims to feature essays on the ways ethnic communities help to articulate our interests in marginal voices in historiography and cross-cultural forms of representation. The book will be oriented towards outlining and drawing together the current insights and concerns of academic researchers and museum professionals. It is keen to receive submissions from members of ethnic community groups who have been involved in creating their own narratives in museum displays and exhibitions. Contemporary museums continue to construct and represent who we are as nations, communities or cultures. The search for relevance and new audiences has led to major challenges for museums to address issues in multicultural and cross-cultural contexts. Museums are currently undergoing various stages of transformation, positioning their pedagogies on a developmental trajectory that function to erase past and existing inequalities in the cultural representation of diversity. If you are interested in being considered as a contributor to this book, please send a 250 word abstract along with a short author biography to both the editor and the publishers: [olivia.guntarik@rmit.edu.au](mailto:olivia.guntarik@rmit.edu.au) and [graeme.farnell@museumsetc.com](mailto:graeme.farnell@museumsetc.com) by 1 November 2009. Enquiries should also be sent to these addresses.

**Deadlines:** Abstracts: due 1 November 2009. Contributors notified: by 1 December 2009.

Completed papers (3000-5000 words): Due 1 February 2010. MuseumsEtc Ltd, 8 Albany Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3QB.

**Comment.** Some of my readers may have things they want said in the book, but do not think they have enough to say to fill 3-5,000 words. It is possible that someone else who does want to

submit a proposal would welcome particularly details of other people's experiences and views. If you have something to say please let me know.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING AT COLINDALE NEWSPAPER LIBRARY?

The British Library is undertaking a major change in the way the public can access its newspaper and magazines collection. Following the explanation in a recent Library newsletter I wrote to express some concerns.

'I find the explanation in the British Library's latest newsletter about the moving away of many originals from Colindale a bit confusing.

Although I have not been able to get to Colindale to do research for some time, I am concerned (unless I have misunderstood the message) that it will no longer be possible to look at a whole range of originals.

Microfilm is much more difficult to scan read, is often of poor quality, and for older people with deteriorating eyesight much more of a strain. I have not yet been able to use digitalised newspapers to assess whether there are similar problems although the searching facility makes this method much more useable.

While I appreciate that some newspapers etc need to be withdrawn from use because of their deteriorating condition, it does seem to me that such withdrawals need to be the absolute priority for digitisation. I hope that microfilming will no longer be used as a method. Microfiche is in my experience is much more preferable.

I also hope that the future changes will not mean that some newspapers will no longer be accessible at all. Sorry to have to say this, but I am not confident about the efficiency of the kind of changes envisaged (this criticism applies across the board with a whole range of organisations).

I did express concern a few years ago about the withdrawal of the old card manual catalogue after the web catalogue went down. There were two reasons. Firstly, looking through the card index enabled people to see that there were items that they would find it useful to look at, which was more difficult do with the web catalogue. Secondly, the web catalogue had left off a number of items that I had previously consulted as a result of the card index. My request to put the card index back for public use was rejected.

On a more positive note I hope that there will be a degree of caution about making it more difficult to see originals. Every so often it becomes apparent that there is a range of newspapers and magazines which have been neglected and therefore have not been made much use of. For example, I recently did a letter to *Picture Postcard* magazine drawing attention to some papers linked to postcard collecting in the Edwardian period that had largely seemed to have been overlooked. I am not saying that lots of people will start looking at them, but the more people know they exist the more likely there is to be an incremental increase in them being looked at. This is likely to be the case also with other specialist topic newspapers.'

Here is the reply from Stewart Gillies, the Reference Team Manager at Colindale.

'... Where the Newspaper Library holds both a microfilm copy and a print copy, it has long been the policy always to deliver the microfilm copy to the reader in order to preserve the fragile originals in our care. Newspapers are inherently fragile items due the poor quality paper used in their production. Constant handling by readers and staff accelerates their natural deterioration and storage in inappropriate conditions is also an issue at Colindale. Collection audits of parts of the newspaper collection revealed an estimate of about 19% of collection material in too poor a condition to be delivered to the Reading Room and we estimate that around a further 15% of the collection will become unavailable within the next five to ten years. The British Library is

therefore acting now to ensure that the newspaper collection continues to be available to future researchers.

Inevitably this means the use of surrogates to provide access rather than the original print items. Traditionally, the preservation medium for newspapers has been microfilm and the Newspaper Library has been microfilming newspapers since the 1950s. However, developments in computer technology, scanning technology and digital storage and retrieval systems mean that we are now in position to consider moving from microfilm to digital access. As you note, this has many benefits for researchers, not least multiple person access to the same content and potentially remote access to a much wider group of researchers, both nationally and internationally, who will be able to consult digitised newspapers without visiting London Reading Rooms. We have already digitised two million pages of 19<sup>th</sup> century British Library newspapers and a further one million pages of digitised content from 19<sup>th</sup> century titles will be added soon. This resource can be used in all British Library Reading Rooms and is freely available to all UK HE and FE institutions. For unaffiliated individual readers who wish to use the resource at home, a micro-payment site is available at <http://newspapers.bl.uk>. All searching is free and there is also free access to the full content of "The Penny Illustrated Paper" and "The Graphic", so you will be able to try this at home without making any payment if you wish to see how digitised newspapers work and what they are like to view. With digital images, it is of course possible to use zoom facilities to enlarge the text size and as you can view a PDF of a page or part of a page and so you will have all the advantages of viewing, printing and downloading that PDF provides.

We are presently reviewing microfilm reading technology to see what possibilities there are to improve or enhance the reader experience of viewing microfilm. For example, there are now reading machines available which scan microfilm to a computer so that you can read the text on a PC screen. These come with sophisticated software with automatic focus, zoom and magnification functionalities which should prove helpful to readers with visual impairments. We are testing one of these machines in the Newspaper Reading Room at present and if trials prove successful, we are likely to move to this type of equipment when planning our new facilities for newspaper reading at St Pancras.

While high use titles will be obvious candidates for digitisation, we will also be considering newspapers in poor condition which cannot presently be made available to readers. While we are continuing to microfilm this year and next year, we envisage that we will move away from microfilm to digital scanning of newspapers by 2011-2012 and plans to move over to this technology are underway.

As the information in the Collection Moves communication suggests, surrogates (microfilm or digital) will be the way readers access the newspaper collection at St Pancras. The print collection will move to a new purpose built storage facility at Boston Spa which will provide a controlled environment, low oxygen, high density storage facility for original newspapers. These storage conditions will help prolong the life and stabilise the condition of the original newspapers so that they can be digitised in the future. The Strategy envisages that reader access to original print newspapers, where necessary for research purposes, will be at Boston Spa. However, where newspapers are available to view digitally or on microfilm, we would expect readers to use these surrogates as we do now unless there is a special research need to consult the originals.

We are also planning to integrate the periodicals now stored at Colindale with the British Library's general reference collection of periodicals. These will be made available at St Pancras. High use periodicals will be stored at St Pancras while lower use material will be stored at Boston Spa but made available to readers at St Pancras. It is therefore possible that some of the specialist titles you mention will be available in original format if they are coded as periodicals and not newspapers. Work is currently underway to split the collection into newspaper and periodical categories and more information will be made available to readers when this project has been completed.

I hope the above information has proved useful in answering your questions.'

## A CELEBRATION OF FEARGUS O'CONNOR

1PM 31ST OCTOBER 09  
KENSAL GREEN CEMETERY  
HARROW ROAD W10.

FEARGUS O'CONNOR WAS DESCRIBED AS THE 'LION OF FREEDOM' IN THE CHARTIST HYMN AND WHEN HE DIED IN 1855 "50,000 WORKING MEN MARCHED BEHIND HIS COFFIN TO HIS INTERMENT IN KENSAL GREEN".

FEARGUS O'CONNOR WAS ONE OF THE BEST LOVED LEADERS OF THE CHARTIST MOVEMENT FOR HE HAD LEFT A LIFE OF RANK AND WEALTH TO SERVE THE UNITY AND INTERESTS OF THE IRISH AND ENGLISH WORKING PEOPLE. TWO OF O'CONNORS GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHARTIST MOVEMENT WAS THE PUBLICATION OF THE 'NORTHERN STAR' AND HIS SUPPORT OF THE TRADE UNIONS. "BY UNION AND BY UNION ALONE CAN 'POOR OPPRESSED' CONTEND AGAINST THE INJUSTICE OF THE 'RICH OPPRESSOR'".



### SPEAKERS

1PM STAN NEWENS LABOUR HISTORIAN AT GRAVESIDE

### DISSENTERS CHAPEL

2PM GLEN BENSON	FRIENDS OF KENSAL GREEN
MALCOLM CHASE	PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL HISTORY
	LEEDS UNIVERSITY
COLIN PRESCOD	CHAIR HISTORY TALK
SHAUN COHEN	HISTORIAN AGS
JAN POLLOCK	PEOPLES CHARTER

INFORMATION EDDIE ADAMS 020 8 964 9531 42, ST LAWRENCE TERRACE W10 5ST

