

## HISTORY & SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

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**CONTENTS:** Early Islam in Britain - Marika Sherwood Lecture 24 November; New Friendly Society Research Group Newsletter; Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Network; Events; News; HSA PDF Monographs.

**FEEDBACK:** In Issue 13 I printed the list of former pupils at the Battersea Central School who the wartime evacuation reunion group could not contact. One of those listed was searching his street in Battersea and came across his name and the address, and has now been able to get in touch with the group.

### Black and Asian Studies Association

#### MARIKA SHERWOOD LECTURE

24 November. 6pm.

Room ST276, Stewart House, 32 Russell Square, London, WC1

## “Strength to stand firm in the fight”: The impact of early British Islam



Woking Mosque

Steve Martin (independent historian) reviews 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 we consider how currents of trade, migration, war, scientific and cultural exchange in both directions fashioned the notions which inform contemporary opinion on both sides."

Free. To reserve a seat and for further information about BASA's membership and

activities contact Sean Creighton, BASA Secretary, 020 8640 2014;  
[sean.creighton@btinternet.com](mailto:sean.creighton@btinternet.com); [www.blackandasianstudies.org](http://www.blackandasianstudies.org).

## NEW FRIENDLY SOCIETY RESEARCH GROUP NEWSLETTER

The latest issue of the Newsletter of the Friendly Society Research Group newsletter (No. 17. November 2009) jointly edited by Dan Weinbren and I is now available. The contents are:

*Editorial*

*Research and publications:* Sons of Crispin; Benson Benefit Club, Oxfordshire; Fraternity in Russia; Recent theses; Fraternal charity; Battersea Friendly Societies; Corks and clowns; Industrial and Provident Societies' Act 1852; *Northern Tribune*

*Contacts and records:* Rechabites Archive; Scottish records; The Token Corresponding Society; The National Independent Oddfellows Friendly Society

*Call for Papers:* Ghent

*News:* Research Centre: Future Uncertain; Association of Friendly Societies to merge; Fraternity on the airwaves; Fraternal Mates

*Appeals for help:* Consciousness; 1911 Appeal; North Wales; Why tyler?

*Copies are available by email from me. It will be posted onto my website.*

## SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR NETWORK

2012 sees the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Britain's Black composer, most famous for his work *Hiawatha*. The network has been established:

1. for people involved in researching Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's life, playing his music, organising events, commemorating his achievements, and wanting to see a major commemoration of his life on the 100th Anniversary of his death in 2012.
2. to provide a method of communication for sharing information relating to the activities under 1, and to help encourage partnership working between different people involved in 1.
3. to encourage the development of events and media coverage across the country in 2012.

To start with I will be co-ordinating the network. Supporters include Jeff Green, author of *Black Edwardians*, who is writing a new biography of Coleridge-Taylor.

If you wish to join the Network please email me on [sean.creighton@btinternet.com](mailto:sean.creighton@btinternet.com).

## EVENTS

**19 November. 7pm. Gerrard Winstanley.** 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the birth of the Digger Leader. Speakers: Thomas Corns (Univ Bangor) co-author of book on John Milton, & Ann Hughes (Univ. Keele author of *The Causes of the English Civil War* (1998)). Socialist History Society and South Place Ethical Society. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1.

**22 November. 3.30 & 6.30pm. Marilyn & Ella.** Musical play by Bonnie Greer. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave. It explores how Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe formed a bond that broke the 1950's colour bar and changed both their lives. Songs include: *I Got Rhythm, My Funny Valentine, Every Time We Say Goodbye, Mack the Knife* and *Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend*. Box Office 0844 412 4658.

**24 November. 6.30-9.30pm. SERTUC Question Time.** (TUC) Congress House, Great Russell Street, WC1. In these modern times where we are moving towards globalisation do unions still serve a purpose? What specific purpose do they serve? Panel discussion and audience Q&A):

Trevor Sterling (Thompsons Solicitors) - Chair; Fraser James (Actor); Glenroy Watson (RMT); Karen Jennings (National Secretary for Health, UNISON); Linda Perks (SERTUC Vice President); Rosemary Laryea (Presenter, Colourful Radio); Sam Gurney (Policy Officer, International Department, TUC); please submit questions (email/postal) for consideration by the Friday 20 November. Free admission event (registration essential) - online [www.tuc.org.uk/sertuc](http://www.tuc.org.uk/sertuc); [sertucevents@tuc.org.uk](mailto:sertucevents@tuc.org.uk); 020 7467 1220.

**25 November. 7-9pm. Mulk Raj Anand and the All-India Progressive Writers Association, 1935-37.** Dr Talat Ashmed. Indian YMCA, 41 Fitzroy Square, London, W1. Socialist History Society Public Meeting. Admission free. Dr Ahmed (Goldsmiths College) is author of *Literature and Politics in the Age of Nationalisms: the Progressive Episode in South Asia, 1932-1956* (Routledge 2009). Anand's *Coolie* was first published in 1936 and as a Penguin Book in 1945.

**27 November. 6-8.30pm. Embedding Shared Heritage.** City Hall. Mayor's Commission On African and Asian Heritage & Heritage Diversity Task Force. Launch of report featuring a range of essays from key sector leaders and provides a timely snapshot of the sector's collaborative efforts to progress cultural diversity within organisational practices, policies and programmes. To attend please email Minyoung Kwon: [mcaah@london.gov.uk](mailto:mcaah@london.gov.uk); 020 7983 5768.

**28 November. 10.30am coffee; 11am talk. The Raphael Samuel Archive.** Stefan Dickers (Archivist, Bishopsgate Institute): Binbags, Boxes and Booklets: Adventures with the Raphael Samuel Archive; Kynan Gentry (Political research fellow, Ruskin College): The tale of Ruskin and Raphael: what does the archive say? Public History Group. Raphael Samuel Hall, Ruskin College, Walton Street, Oxford, OX1. All are welcome. Further information from Eamonn Deeley - [edeeley@ruskin.ac.uk](mailto:edeeley@ruskin.ac.uk).

**29 November. 3.30 & 6.30pm. Marilyn & Ella.** See 22 November.

**7 December. 5.30pm. 20 years since the events in Eastern Europe.** Gareth Duke. London Socialist Historians seminar. Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet St/Russell Square, London, WC1.

**14 December. 6pm (doors open 5.30pm) The History of London Bridge.** Lecture by Dr Derek Keene (former Director of Centre for Metropolitan History) on the history of the bridge and more broadly the importance of bridges to cities. Part of the celebrations to mark the 800th Anniversary of London Bridge. Venue Guildhall London. After the lecture there will be a reception to 8pm. Please note spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you would like to attend this event, please contact: Anton Muszanskyj, Events Co-ordinator, Remembrancer's Office, Guildhall, City of London, PO Box 270, London EC2P 2EJ. 0207 332 3445. [Anton.Muszanskyj@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Anton.Muszanskyj@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

**18 December. 9.30am-4.30pm. Promoting Inclusive Heritage.** A diversity seminar by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7. Aim: To share good practice and lessons learnt from three HLF funded audience development and diversity projects in London. For further information and to book a place, email Michael Murray, HLF London Development Manager, at [michaelm@hlf.org.uk](mailto:michaelm@hlf.org.uk), or telephone on 020 7591 6183.

**30 January. 10.30am coffee; 11am talk. The Scars of War: First World War Memorials in France and Belgium under German Occupation 1940 - 1944.** Peter Leney (Oxford Brookes). Public History Group. Raphael Samuel Hall, Ruskin College, Walton Street, Oxford, OX1. All are welcome. Further information from Eamonn Deeley - [edeeley@ruskin.ac.uk](mailto:edeeley@ruskin.ac.uk).

**27 February. 10.30am coffee; 11am talk. 'Access to all': Archives and public history in Wales.** Mandi O'Neill (Ruskin College). Public History Group. Raphael Samuel Hall, Ruskin College, Walton Street, Oxford, OX1. All are welcome. Further information from Eamonn Deeley - [edeeley@ruskin.ac.uk](mailto:edeeley@ruskin.ac.uk).

**16 March. 7.30pm. Ghost Dancers.** David Douglass will read from the third volume of his autobiography *Ghost Dancers* commemorating the 25th anniversary of the end of the 1984/5 miners strike and the last generation of the miners up to the present day. Public History Group. Raphael Samuel Hall, Ruskin College, Walton Street, Oxford, OX1 2HE. All are welcome. Further information from Eamonn Deeley - [edeeley@ruskin.ac.uk](mailto:edeeley@ruskin.ac.uk).

**22 May. 10.30am coffee; 11am. 'A few sorry stooles': reading the non-elite past from the material record of the early modern household.** Tony Buxton (University of Oxford). Public History Group. Raphael Samuel Hall, Ruskin College, Walton Street, Oxford, OX1. All are welcome. Further information from Eamonn Deeley - [edeeley@ruskin.ac.uk](mailto:edeeley@ruskin.ac.uk).

## NEWS

**Andrew Prescott To Move to Glasgow.** Battersea born Andrew Prescott, former Director of the Centre for Research into Freemasonry at Sheffield University, and currently Pro Vice-Chancellor and Librarian of the University of Wales, Lampeter, is to become Director of Research for the Humanities Advanced Technology and Information Institute at the University of Glasgow in January 2010. The post will enable him to time to research and he hopes he will therefore have a greater opportunity to work on the history of Freemasonry than has been possible over the past couple of years. Further details of his appointment are at: [www.gla.ac.uk/departments/hatii/news/profandrewprescott/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/hatii/news/profandrewprescott/)

**Any Junk Video.** The Wandsworth based Any Junk social enterprise rubbish collection and recycling social enterprise has produced a short video on You Tube, commenting on today's celebratory culture. Do have a look. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8\\_wfG1CT1rg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_wfG1CT1rg). I have used Any Junk on three occasions and they offer a good service, even though you do have to pay for it.

**Mutuals to control schools and hospitals?** Labour's plan for staff and users control schools and hospitals is discussed in the *Guardian* on 12 November. [www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/nov/11/labour-manifesto-public-services-sector](http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/nov/11/labour-manifesto-public-services-sector)

**Labour Start.** The international trade union website email alerts have recently reported on the lock out of 1,000 West Bengali tea workers, and arrest of trade unionists in Zimbabwe. [www.labourstart.org](http://www.labourstart.org).

**Paul Robeson.** In the last issue I queried whether the appeal of Paul Robeson was on the wane in Britain. Clearly not. Tayo Aluko reports that he recently finished his UK Black History Month tour by selling out the 400-seater Greenwich Theatre. He is now heading to Washington DC to perform for two weeks.

**Spinning and weaving.** If you want to learn about weaving and spinning then check out the courses run by Dyework at Vauxhall City Farm: [www.dyework.co.uk](http://www.dyework.co.uk).

**Kelvin Valley Countryside Park.** Another excellent issue of *Kelvin Valley Park News* (Autumn/Winter 2009) has been edited by my brother-in-law Paul Carter. The issue reviews the campaigning for over 4 decades through various means and groups and the resultant community, social, economic and environmental regeneration. In the midst of gloom about the effects everywhere on community and social action across Britain it is good to be reminded of success stories, especially those that have been built incrementally over time. And there is still a forward agenda. See [www.kelvinvalleypark.info](http://www.kelvinvalleypark.info).

**The Ballad of Britain.** Will Hodgkinson's book *The Ballad of Britain: How Music Captured the Soul of a Nation* is a contemporary search for the folk music of Britain. Portico. Pbk. £12.99. Accompanying CD £13.99.

**Labour in the East.** Labour Heritage has published a collection of essays on Labour History in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex written by Ian Grimwood, John Gyford, Stan Newens, Don Mathew and

Matthew Worley. They cover the development of the Labour Party in Ipswich, Lowestoft and Norwich, the co-operative movement and Essex County-level politics. £5 plus £2 (p&p) from J. Gyford, Blanford, Chalks Rd, Witham, Essex, CM8 2BT or Mrs I. R. Grimwood, 19 Dorset Close, Ipswich, IP4 3BJ. Cheques payable to 'Labour in the East'.

***Under One Flag.*** This book by Erica Myers-Davis was written on behalf of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, a charity that supports all Commonwealth veterans and is about the contribution of peoples from the Commonwealth who took part in WWII. At the launch Cy Grant, who served during the War, chatted with the Duke of Edinburgh who thought he was a war veteran of some Overseas Campaign. He seemed to be unaware that men from the Caribbean had flown as aircrew in the RAF. Grant set up the archive website of the 440 Caribbean air crew who flew with the RAF in WWII: [www.caribbeanaircrew-ww2.com](http://www.caribbeanaircrew-ww2.com).

**O'Connor Power.** The continued arrival by email of snippets on various areas of my historical interests has drawn my attention to John O'Connor Power, an Irish nationalist MP (1874-1885) who lived at 7 Luttrell Ave in Putney, and supported the St. Simon Stock church in Hazelwell Ave. J Avis, his wife, survived him by almost thirty years dying at the age of 96, and seems to have stayed on in Putney. He is buried in Abney Park cemetery in North London. For more information see Jane Sanford's biographical sketch at: [www.roscommonhistory.ie/People/jocPower/jocpower.htm](http://www.roscommonhistory.ie/People/jocPower/jocpower.htm). His book *The Making of an Orator* can be read or downloaded on [www.archive.org/details/makingofator00powerich](http://www.archive.org/details/makingofator00powerich). (Thanks to Jane Stanford.)

***Untold Histories. Black people in England and Wales during the period of the British Slave trade, c. 1660-1807.*** Full details about the book published by my BASA colleague Kathy Chater can be seen on [www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/catalogue/book.asp?id=1204394](http://www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/catalogue/book.asp?id=1204394)

**History Faces Extinction in English Schools.** For the Historical Association's concerns about the decline of history in schools see [www.history.org.uk/news/news\\_415.html](http://www.history.org.uk/news/news_415.html)

### HISTORY & SOCIAL ACTION PDF MONOGRAPHS by Sean Creighton

**No. 10. Wandsworth & the Edwardian Roller-Skating Boom.** Extended version of talk at launch of Wandsworth Heritage Festival, 1 June 2009.

**No.9. Bloody Sunday** Extended version of talk at Archives for London Conference Revolting London, 3 October 2009.

**No.8. Battersea Friendly Societies.** Paper used for talk at Sheffield University's Centre for Research into Freemasonry seminar, December 2002.

**No.7. From Exclusion to Political Control. Radical and Working Class Organisation in Battersea 1830s-1918.** Revised talk at Public Record Office Conference "Voice of the Multitude", Radicalism and Unrest in Britain, 1790-1918. 1998.

**No.6. Black Emancipation and the Working Class. 1815-1838.** Talk at HistoryTalk July 2009.

**No.5. Sharing Knowledge.** This paper was prepared for use in connection with the Arts & Humanities Research Council event held in Birmingham on 5 May 2009, which I attended on behalf of Black & Asian Studies Association.

**No. 4 - Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. Its Continuing Historical Influence.** This monograph started off as a review of the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens Conference held in July 2008, and over the year has slowly expanded into a discussion on issues relating to the spread and management of pleasure gardens, their appeal, and their lasting legacy down to the modern day. It also attempts to integrate aspects of the black experience in Britain: Ignatius Sancho, Juba, William Wells Brown and the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

**No.3. John Archer and the Politics of Labour.** Talk at Belonging in Europe Conference organised by the Equiano Centre, Department of Geography, University College London, 8/9 November 2007

**No. 2. Black Abolitionists and the North East.** Talk at Liberating Sojourn 2 Conference, Liverpool University, 23-25 April 2009.

**No 1. Progressive Battersea: Radicalism and Socialism 1880-1914.** Basis of talk at West London Local History Conference, 21 May 2009.

**To order:** PDF Monographs will be emailed on receipt of £2 payable to 'Sean Creighton'. Orders for printed copies will be invoiced at cost of photocopying and postage. To order contact: [sean.creighton@btopenworld.com](mailto:sean.creighton@btopenworld.com). Cheques to Sean Creighton, 18 Ridge Rd, Mitcham, CR4 2ET.