

## HISTORY & SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Compiled by Sean Creighton, Agenda Services  
Community, Cultural, Heritage & Organisational Projects  
[sean.creighton@btinternet.com](mailto:sean.creighton@btinternet.com)  
[www.seancreighton.com](http://www.seancreighton.com)

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**Feedback:** Thank you to Battersea Society for advertising the last issue in its May members email update, as well as highlighting some of my involvements in the Wandsworth Heritage Festival in June.

### HSAP PDF MONOGRAPH SERIES

Over the years I have prepared a number of talks and detailed background notes. I am now working these up to make available as a History & Social Action Publications History Monograph Series available in PDF format. There will be a charge of £2 per monograph sent by email and print copies will be available based on printing and postage costs.

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

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

**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.

To order copies email [sean.creighton@btinternet.com](mailto:sean.creighton@btinternet.com). The PDF file(s) will be emailed to you with an invoice.

The PDF/EPapers section of my website contains some downloadable papers and will in future detail my papers which are on other websites.

### CHANGE OF JON NEWMAN WALK DATES

The dates of Jon Newman's North Lambeth History Walks have been changed to:

**9 June. 6pm. Tradescant Walk.** Meet at South Lambeth Library, 180 South Lambeth Rd, London, SW8.

**11 June. 6pm. William Blake Walk.** Meet at Waterloo Library. 114-8 Lower Marsh, London, SE1.

### EVENTS

**19 May. 5-7pm. Book Launch: George Padmore: Pan-African Revolutionary**, edited by Fitzroy Baptiste and Rupert Lewis. Round-table discussion with two of the contributors Hakim Adi and Marika Sherwood, and two PhD students studying C. L. R. James and Padmore. Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 28 Russell Square, London WC1.

**19 May. 6.30pm. Documenting The Archives and Oral Histories of the Black Women's Movement.** Karibu Education Centre, 7 Gresham Rd, Brixton, London, ([www.karibueducationcentre.org.uk](http://www.karibueducationcentre.org.uk)). Places are free but booking is essential. Call Black Cultural Archives 020 7582 8516 during office hours, or email [tickets@bcaheritage.org.uk](mailto:tickets@bcaheritage.org.uk) to reserve your place. For more information, see [www.bcaheritage.org.uk](http://www.bcaheritage.org.uk)

**21 May. 7-10pm. Films by Colin Prescod.** SERTUC film club - double bill discussion with filmmaker - Colin Prescod. *You were black, you were out* describes the condition in the 1950s in Ladbroke Grove a decaying inner London area. *A town under siege* focuses on how Southall organised to resist racist and fascist attacks between 1976 and 1981. 2 films (from 4 part series) by Colin Prescod made for Channel 4 at the beginning of the 1980s. Free admission all welcome (booking essential): 020 7467 1220; email: South East Regional Trades Union Congress: [sertucevents@tuc.org.uk](mailto:sertucevents@tuc.org.uk). website: [www.tuc.org.uk/sertuc](http://www.tuc.org.uk/sertuc)

**20 May. 7.30pm. Clapham Junction Towers.** Wandsworth Council's Planning Applications Committee will consider the proposals for the re-development of Clapham Junction, including the two 42 storey towers. Battersea Society reports that more than 600 objections have been lodged on the Council's website, with Martin Linton MP getting 552 signatures on a petition protesting about the towers, and with many Councillors of both parties against the development. For background see HSAN 7. The Society urges a big presence in the public gallery to ensure that Councillors are made very aware of the strength of opposition to the proposals as they consider how to vote. You are advised to get to the Town Hall around 7pm. Wandsworth High St, SW18.

**22 May. 12.30-5.30. Caribbean Research Seminar in the North. Newcastle.** Aisha Khan, Anthropology, New York University, 'Miraculous or Mundane? Tethering Power to Cultural Transformation'; Kate Quinn, Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of London, 'Eric Williams and Black Power in Trinidad'; Nanette de Jong, Music, Newcastle University, 'Afro-Caribbean Ritual and the Politics of Memory: Introducing the Tambú of Curaçao'. Sponsored by JISLAC (Joint Initiative for the Study of Latin America & the Caribbean) and Newcastle University's Americas Research Group. Room 2.20 Research Beehive, First Floor, Old Library Building. Lunch (from 12.30pm) and Refreshments: the Courtyard, Ground Floor, Old Library Building. Registration (including lunch) is free. A reservation for dinner at a local restaurant will be made for the evening of 22 May. If you want to come, and particularly if you'd like to be included in the dinner reservation, please contact [Diana.paton@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Diana.paton@ncl.ac.uk).

**To 23 May. David Mills' The New Black.** A caustic cabaret meltdown! Wednesday - Saturday. 8pm. Oval House Theatre, 52-54 Kennington Oval, London SE11. £12/£6 concessions. All tickets include a complimentary 'Bloody Sour' cocktail to take into the show!. Box Office: 020 7582 7680. Book Online: [www.ovalhouse.com](http://www.ovalhouse.com) (no fee).

**To 24 May. Wandsworth Arts Festival.** [For events see www.batterseasociety.org.uk/docs/festival2009.ppdf](http://www.batterseasociety.org.uk/docs/festival2009.ppdf)

**26 May. 6pm. 'Bombay Africans: The African Ex-Slaves Who Returned'.** Talk by Cliff Pereira at University of Northampton. Northamptonshire Black History Association. 01604 590967. [admin@northants-black-history.org.uk](mailto:admin@northants-black-history.org.uk); [www.northants-black-history.org.uk](http://www.northants-black-history.org.uk).

**1 - 30 June. Wandsworth Heritage Festival.** See Issue 7 inc. events I am involved in or have organised.

**2 June. 6.30pm. Community/Police Consultative Group for Lambeth** monthly meeting. Theme Serious Violent Crime and Domestic Violence. St John's Church, Waterloo, SE1. [www.lambethcpcg.org.uk](http://www.lambethcpcg.org.uk)

**4-6 June. Mr Robeson performance.** Bristol Old Vic. See below

**10 June. 6pm. Black and Asian Community Voice and Local History - The Bexley example.** Cliff Pereira. Black History Seminar, ICS, 28 Russell Square, London, WC1.

**To 13 June. Crown Jewels.** Exhibition of new work by Ben Long. It incorporates Sir Giles Scott's famous K6 red telephone booth and an archetypal Victorian bandstand as the basis of two new sculptural works. Man&Eve Gallery, 131 Kennington Park Rd, London, SE11. 020 7582 7861. [info@manandeve.co.uk](mailto:info@manandeve.co.uk). [www.manandeve.co.uk](http://www.manandeve.co.uk)

**18 June. 7pm. Battersea Society AGM.** Dimson Lodge - on the other side of Battersea Church Road from St Mary's Church. After the formal business Sarah Rackham will talk about the work of the Katherine Low Settlement. It is a pity that this AGM clashes with my walk through Old Battersea.

**7 July. 6pm. Community/Police Consultative Group for Lambeth monthly meeting.** Theme: Elders of the Community. Room 8, Lambeth Town Hall SW2. [www.lambethcpcg.org.uk](http://www.lambethcpcg.org.uk).

**12 July. Kennington Cross Fete:** Annual fete held in Cleaver Square. Stalls run by local people selling gifts, soft furnishings, jewellery, books and bric-a-brac. Local restaurants will be showcasing their food, and there will be a raffle and tombola. Activities for children will include magic shows, face painting and Punch & Judy. To book a table or get more information, contact [margarita@omalleyaldrich.com](mailto:margarita@omalleyaldrich.com).

**23 July. Mr Robeson performance.** Southport Arts Centre. See below.

**28 July. 6pm. Community/Police Consultative Group for Lambeth monthly meeting.** Stockwell Community Resource Centre. Studley Road SW4. [www.lambethcpcg.org.uk](http://www.lambethcpcg.org.uk).

**To 30 August. Ethelburga Tower Photographic Exhibition.** Geffrye Museum in Shoreditch. Photographs taken by Mark Cowper in which he explores the interiors of Ethelburga Tower, Battersea, where he has lived for the last 20 years. Admission is free. More details at [www.geffrye-museum.org.uk/whatson/special](http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk/whatson/special)

## NEWS

**Chartism.** Chartism is the welcome focus of the latest issue of *Labour History Review* (Vol 74. No.1. April 2009). An editorial review about new directions in Chartist Studies is provided by Joan Allen and Owen R. Ashton. Articles cover petitioners and rebels in England from the Blanketeers to the Chartists; the politics of everyday life and Chartism 1832-1840; Chartist music and popular aural tradition; Chartist challenges at the Parliamentary Polls 1839-1860; exclusive dealing in the Chartist Movement; and late Chartism in the Potteries 1848-1858. To join the Society for the Study of Labour History or to buy a copy of the *Review* see [www.maney.co.uk](http://www.maney.co.uk)

**Newcastle, Darlington and Chartism.** A special section of the Chartist issue of *Labour History Review* reports on archive developments, several of which centre on the North East. Professor David Saunders at Newcastle University has written about the discovery of W. E. Adams papers in Moscow in *Historical Research* February 2009. Adams was editor of the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* from the 1860s. The recent discovery of the *Chartist Penny Almanack for the year 1844*, published in Darlington, has been written about by Malcolm Chase in *Cleveland History*, 95, Autumn 2008. Letters written by Sir Charles Napier, who commanded the Northern District in the Chartist period, have been purchased by the National Army Museum. A copy of the pamphlet of Thomas Spence's controversial lecture *Property in Land Every One's Right* delivered at the Newcastle Philosophical Society in 1775 was discovered in the Newcastle Literary & Philosophical Society Library in 2005 and an assessment of it is in the issue written by Alastair Bonnett of Newcastle University. There are also notes on archive developments relating to R. Gammage, John Bedford Leno and Dorothy Thompson's Special Collection at the University of Staffordshire.

**Kelvin Valley.** The Kelvin Valley in Scotland west of Glasgow contains the Forth & Clyde Canal, the River Kelvin Park, and the World Heritage status Antonine Wall. Decades of community action have seen major environmental improvements, including the re-opening of the Canal and work to create the Kelvin Valley Park. My brother-in-law Paul Carter, who has been involved from the start, is active in the Kelvin Valley Community Forum and the Friends of Kelvin Valley Park. He edits the *Kelvin Valley Park News*. Of particular interest to potential holiday makers to the area are regular organised walks, the June 13-21 Kilsyth Civic Week, and the August 8-16 Kelvin Valley Festival. Further details on [www.kelvinvalleypark.info](http://www.kelvinvalleypark.info).

**Spring Gardens at Vauxhall.** Friends of Spring Gardens at Vauxhall continue to be vigilant to ensure that the open space is maintained properly and continues to be improved. It has obtained a small grant to set up a Young Friends of Vauxhall Spring Gardens' group. With the help of Trees for Cities, young people will plant 4 trees and 300 wild flower plugs. Tree planting is not as easy as you would think, because the Council is only keen to do so if there is a maintenance revenue stream for them as well. Several trees need to be replaced because they are dieing. The future of the Lord Clyde site on the corner with Tyers St remains uncertain. The site owners Vincent De Paul is being pressed to sort out of problems with the poor security maintenance of the site. It is marketing the site for £600,000 even though the only planning permission is for intermediate housing for young people. Despite the idea of doing a land swap being first raised back in 2005/6, no progress has been made by the Council in discussion with De Paul. The idea of the land swap was to enable to site to be incorporated into the Gardens giving a more open view at the top of Tyers St.

**Victorian Children at Work Key Stage 2 Pack.** The Working Class Movement Library in Salford now has a free teaching resource pack available for download from its Web site, on the theme *Victorian Children at Work*. It is aimed at Key Stage 2 History and Literacy learners, and contains over 50 specially selected extracts from original Victorian documents, including reports, interviews with children, stories and pictures. The Library developed the pack using its Heritage Lottery Fund grant, to increase the use of material held in our collection. It worked with Cathedral School of St Peter and St John, Salford, who were keen to increase their use of original source material in the classroom, increasing their pupils' analytical and research skills. See [www.wcml.org.uk/wcml/en/learning/free-teaching-material](http://www.wcml.org.uk/wcml/en/learning/free-teaching-material).

**Taxman Can Inspect You at Home.** Self employed people working from home can now be visited by the taxman to check their business records if it is considered that there may be a possible tax liability or anything that constitutes tax avoidance. It can be done without advance notice.

**Community Engagement Toolkit.** Lambeth Strategic Partnership has published a Community Engagement Toolkit. See [www.lambethfirst.org.uk](http://www.lambethfirst.org.uk).

**Black Film Exhibition Publicity Fund.** Film London is making £100,000 available over 2 years to increase the impact of Black film exhibition by providing additional publicity and marketing support in order to both raise the profile of Black film talent and attract larger audiences. The Fast Track up to £3,000 (no specific deadlines apply) and the Main Fund from £3,001 to £30,000. The next deadline for the Main Fund is 9 October 2009. **For more information, visit:** [www.filmlondon.org.uk/news\\_details.asp?newsid=1414](http://www.filmlondon.org.uk/news_details.asp?newsid=1414).

**Policing Demonstrations.** Many readers of this newsletter who have been on demonstrations will not have been surprised at the police tactics used at the G20 protests or the allegations now being investigated about the behaviour of individual officers. At their 30 April meeting Metropolitan Police Authority members 'were adamant that improvements should be made in the way future demonstrations are handled. Concerns were also raised about the potential for police cordons to provoke adverse reactions from peaceful protesters. And the consequence of law abiding protestors having been contained and then spreading disquiet about their treatment to their communities, had serious effects on public confidence in the Met.' Several members 'asked

whether the role of TSG would be reviewed in the light of G20.' - From MPA April Bulletin.  
[Www.mpa.gov.uk/news/rss/htm](http://www.mpa.gov.uk/news/rss/htm)

**Mr Robeson.** In Issue No. 7 I reported on meeting Tayo who puts on the *Mr Robeson* evenings. He now reports the following performances:

June 4-6: Bristol Old Vic

July 23: Southport Arts Centre

October 7: Atrix, Bromsgrove

October 9: Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

October 10: Brewrey Arts Centre, Kendal

October 17: The Harlow Playhouse

October 24: Library Theatre, Sheffield

October 29: Mercury Theatre, Colchester

and in United States:

September 9: Philadelphia Fringe

November 9: New York & Washington DC

February 10: West Coast

**Lost Public Heritage - Battersea Polytechnic.** A major piece of lost public heritage in Battersea is the building of the former Battersea Polytechnic which fronts on to Battersea Park Rd, Forfar and MacDuff Rds to the sides and Lurline Gardens at the back. Over the decades the building changed hands from one higher education establishment to another. It was sold off by the former Westminster Kingsway College. It has been converted into over 150 flats with some new blocks in-filled and along Lurline Gardens. The developer is St. James Homes, a subsidiary of Berkley Homes. The complex has been renamed Kingsway Square. The Edwin Tate Library rooms are being marketed for such businesses as a restaurant or bar. The original buildings are Grade II listed. The developers' brochure makes a great deal of the refurbishment of the listed architectural features. Further details can be seen on [www.kingswaysquare.co.uk](http://www.kingswaysquare.co.uk). Perhaps Battersea Society could seek to persuade whoever leases the bar/restaurant to display on their walls details about the history of the Polytechnic.