



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE **Black History** ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

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NBHA Website Launch

The Northamptonshire Black History Association website is now live and accessible to all. It can be found at www.northants-black-history.org.uk. The website will be formally launched on **30 March 2006** at Northampton Central Library, Abington Street. The NBHA website navigates users through the history of Black History research in Northamptonshire and it has facilities to enable users to contact the NBHA regarding activities, publications, training and future events.

The NBHA team would like to encourage all readers of the newsletter to visit the website regularly, and tell others about the exciting research work that is being carried out by the Northamptonshire Black History Association.

Here are examples of some of the pages to be discovered on the NBHA website.

The screenshot shows the website's home page. At the top left is the NBHA logo. A navigation menu on the left includes links for Home, Search our database, About us, Our activities, Education, News and events, Newsletters, Publications, Training and services, Links, Contact us, and Site plan. Below the menu are links for Copyright notice, Links to and from our site, General disclaimer, and Last updated 15.01.06. The main content area features a 'Home' header with a search box labeled 'Search our database'. A large banner reads 'Search our database to discover Northamptonshire's earliest Black history records' with a photo of Benjamin Zephaniah. Below this is a welcome message and a quote from Benjamin Zephaniah dated January 2004. A definition of 'Black' is provided at the bottom. The footer includes navigation links (home | back | top of page) and logos for the Northamptonshire Black History Association and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This page shows a further example of the historical research that has been uncovered by the project team. With continuing discoveries the website will be updated regularly. The menu system on the left of each page will enable users to search all the archives and research records that have been added to the database. Several oral history interviews can now be accessed through the website.

Contact the team at admin@northants-black-history.org.uk with any suggestions, ideas or discoveries about Black History in Northamptonshire.

Previous issues of the NBHA newsletters are now available from the website.

Remember to visit the site on a regular basis for the latest news on Black History discoveries.

60th Anniversary of End of World War II

Saeed Pirzada

Born in 1934, Saeed Pirzada was a young child in India during World War II; however, he has many recollections of this time. The number of people in Saeed's household and neighbourhood were reduced as servants and young people were tempted by agents to join the war effort with promises of a better future. The drain on people in the rural areas affected the community and produce soon became scarce. Many local people were employed to make uniforms for the British Army. There was an influx of Burmese refugees into the local area and people were fearful that the Japanese would invade. India was under British rule and Saeed explains that although families were proud that their sons had joined the army there were also mixed feelings, 'we were not independent. We thought that we are helping people who are keeping us under slavery'. People started to demand their national independence immediately after the war.

Progress Report by Bobb Lewis

NBHA has achieved its first six months of existence, it therefore seems apt that I should take this opportunity to convey to you some of the progress that has taken place since 1 October 2005. You are aware, I am sure, of our existing Partnership with the University of Northampton. Work has now begun in earnest by NBHA to deliver on our commitment as partners, and the results will be seen in the coming months. NBHA continues to receive the unstinting support of our local University and our educational work continues, with the successful running of the Black British History course at the University throughout the spring 2006 term.

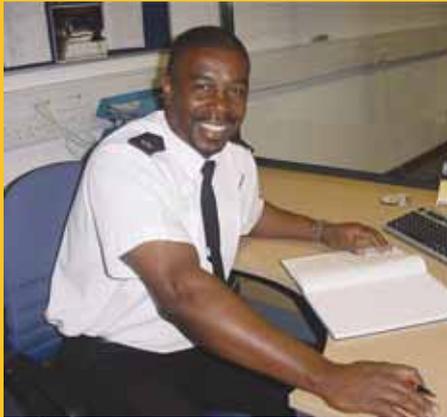
For reasons of efficiency, most of our everyday work is done by the various NBHA sub-committees designated to act on our behalf. Linking between these committees, our Secretary keeps the Chair well-informed on all aspects of our business. Decisions made by the various committees are fed back to our Management Committee for scrutiny and approval.

Having registered as a Company in October 2005, we are now in the process of gathering all the necessary documentation together for an application to the Charity Commissioners for registration of NBHA as a Charity. You will be kept informed on these developments as they unfold. I am happy to report that by coming together we have indeed made a good beginning. Our working together is indicative of our progress. I have no doubt that as we continue to do so we will achieve the success which is our ultimate goal.

CARNIVAL 2006

Carnival returns to Northampton on **Saturday 17 June 2006**. The parade starts at Delapre Park at 2pm and goes through the town to return to Delapre where there will be food, stalls, performances, fun fair, exhibitors and lots more. There will be visiting troupes from other parts of the country. The carnival theme for 2006 is 'Colours of The Rainbow'. The Carnival will be the centrepiece of a world music weekend which includes on Friday Korean

drummers, Saturday New Orleans Jazz Band and Sunday Folk Music. The Carnival Committee is looking forward to all the creative/artistic ideas different groups will bring to the parade. Some groups have started working on their ideas. It is not too late to obtain an application form for troop, float, stall etc. Please contact **Morcea Walker** email: mwalker@northamptonshire.gov.uk



Ray Campbell - First Chair of NBPA

An insight into the career of Police Officer Raymond Campbell

by Garry Liburd DC 130 (General Secretary,
Northamptonshire Black Police Association)

Raymond Hugh Campbell was born in Jamaica and moved to England at the age of 11. He spent nine years in the Royal Marines before joining The Metropolitan Police Service (Met) in 1982. He worked as a uniformed constable in Camden and Kentish Town. Ray sat and passed his Sergeant's examination with less than three years service, before leaving the Met to join Northamptonshire Police Force in 1987. Within a year of his move he became Sergeant at Campbell Square Police Station. 1992 saw his promotion to the rank of Inspector and receipt of *The John Pursey Award* for his efforts in achieving the highest examination marks that year. His rise through the ranks continued and in 1996 Ray became a Senior Investigating Officer in Professional Standards and in 1997 he advanced to the rank of Chief Inspector. From 1999 – 2003 Ray worked as the Operations Manager for the Eastern and Western Areas of Northamptonshire. In 2003 Ray was promoted to Superintendent of Community Action based at Police Headquarters.

During the early 1990s Ray was influential in creating a social network for Black and minority Police officers and staff in the Force. Northamptonshire Black Police Association (BPA) was formally launched on 6th June 1995. Ray and other executive members of the BPA established links with key individuals and agencies from the various minority communities in the county. Ray used his connections with his old colleagues in the Met and other colleagues in forces around the country and helped to form the National Networking Forum (NNF) in the mid '90s. In 1998, at Wootton Hall Police Headquarters, the NNF became what is now nationally and internationally known as The National BPA. In 2000 Ray's efforts in the Police Force and community were recognised beyond the Northamptonshire boundaries when he was awarded the *Queen's Police Medal* (QPM) for Distinguished Service at Buckingham Palace.

In September 2005 Ray retired from the force in his position of Superintendent. He said 'I am particularly pleased with the role I've played in ... community relations in this force. Our county has good relations between the various population groups, and this has stood us in good stead, especially in the wake of the 7/7 bombings in London'. In his retirement Ray intends to spend more time with his wife and two children and make time for his great passion, golf.

BASA
Black and Asian Studies Association

Moving Forward

New Directions in Black and Asian Studies III
A one day conference & AGM for members

Saturday 8 April 2006 10.00am - 4.30pm
at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL

Speakers will include:

- Stephen Bourne**, The problems of researching, developing and publishing *We Also Served - Britain's Black Community on the Home Front 1939-45*
- Cliff Pereira**, Bexley's local Black and Asian History
- Lindy Moore**, George Ferdinands, about whom we know next to nothing
- Lucy MacKeith and Louisa Parker**, Black history projects in Devon and Dorset
- Daniel Grey**, Did race matter in 19th century crime?
- Marika Sherwood**, *In this Curriculum I don't exist*

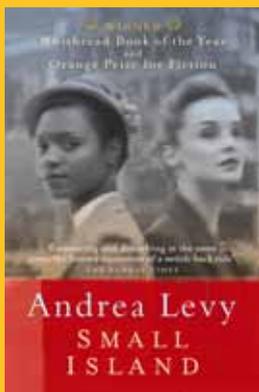
plus discussions on

BLACK HISTORY AND THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM & 2007 - WHAT WILL WE BE CELEBRATING?

To book a place or obtain further information please email: blackhistoricalgeographies@ucl.ac.uk

Book Review

Small Island by Andrea Levy



This Caribbean-British novel, set in the 1940s, has won major literary awards including the Orange Prize for Fiction 2004 and the Commonwealth Writer's Prize. Andrea Levy is a Black British writer whose parents came from Jamaica. Her father sailed to England on the Empire Windrush in 1948.

In *Small Island*, Levy takes the reader into the different worlds of British and Jamaican culture. The voices of its two Black characters, Gilbert and Hortense, give an insight into the dreams and realities of Jamaicans who came to the 'Mother Country' in search of a better life. While Queenie and her husband Bernard help the reader to understand the impact of World War II and the problems faced in White society when the two cultures were brought together in post-war Britain. The themes of empire, war, migration, and prejudice will seem familiar to many NBHP interviewees, either because of their own experiences, or those of their parents.

Paperback published by REVIEW 3/01/05 £6.99

Please contact us at admin@northants-black-history.org.uk if you would like to review or recommend a book.



'First Impressions' - An Afternoon at the Record Office



On 18 February some of the two hundred local people who have recorded their life histories through the Northamptonshire Black History Project were invited to the Northamptonshire Record Office to see their recordings at work. Archivist Jenny Moran gave a talk on the 'first impressions' of settlers in Britain and Northamptonshire from Africa, India and the Caribbean. She also drew upon records of the Racial Equality Council in Nottinghamshire. The REC documents gave a lot of useful

information, but tended to paint a negative picture as they focused upon the difficulties experienced. The Northamptonshire oral history recordings, on the other hand, 'indicated both positives and negatives about life in Britain, and showed that people made life-long friends and founded new communities in the areas they lived in'.

Jenny's talk showed how some people were disappointed by what they found in Britain in the 1960s and 1970s. The cold weather was hard to bear, and the 'Mother Country' could be surprisingly unwelcoming. Houses or rooms were often refused to Black tenants, and it was a common experience to be forced to take up low-paid and menial work, regardless of existing skills and experience. Language differences could cause problems, but often had a funny side too. As individuals created their own new lives in Britain, and as families expanded, food and recipes proved 'one of the many ways in which cultural information is passed down through generations'. Jenny concluded with some thoughts on the contributions which Black British people have made to British culture: she found many of those interviewed spoke of 'cultures enriching each other'.

Overall, the recorded interviews put their emphasis upon achievements rather than upon 'victimhood'.



The afternoon finished with shared memories, refreshments, and an opportunity to listen to chosen recordings. Our thanks are due to the Record Office for their hospitality, and to Jenny Moran for a very enjoyable talk.

Black History and Education: Planning the Future

The Northamptonshire Black History Association has submitted a bid for £253,000 to the Heritage Lottery Fund after three months of consultation and planning. The outcome will be decided by June 2006. We are planning to use Black History research as a basis for education in schools and in local community organisations, involving the widest possible range of people of all ages. First, we want to produce five Thematic Teaching Packs which will be made available in every school in Northamptonshire. The proposed titles of the Teaching Packs are:

Northamptonshire in Global Context

From Slavery to Emancipation

Representations of Empire

Walter Tull: Sport, War and Challenging Adversity

Black History Within Living Memory

Second, we will work with the Museums Service to develop learning opportunities at Abington Park Museum. This museum contains many items from Africa, Asia and the Americas which are not currently on display to the public, or are not clearly explained and presented. Finally, we are planning three community education projects which will be run through local organisations, including WACA and Dostiyo. Outcomes will include performance, recordings, art and even a cookery book! These related projects will build upon the past three years' Black History research, placing Black History into the educational mainstream. As we go to press, fingers are tightly crossed for final confirmation of County Council 'matched funding' and for a positive decision from the Lottery Fund. Watch this space!

STOP PRESS!

Tickets are now on sale for the NBHA Day Visit to Bristol on Saturday 1 April.

Everyone is welcome. Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for children (under 16). You will have a full day to explore Bristol's Black History and to enjoy this lively, interesting city. City centre maps and copies of a Bristol Slavery Trail will be provided, together with information on the two town-centre museums with Black History exhibitions. To reserve your tickets phone **Nikki Taylor, NBHA Community Education Officer, on 01604 590967.**

Oral History

Ray Campbell's interview with NBHP is available for reference at the Record Office (profile on page 4). Saeed Pirzada's interview mentioned on page 2, is among other deposited interviews which can be accessed at the Northamptonshire Record Office, Wootton Hall Park, Mereway, Northampton. Telephone 01604 762129.

30 March, 6.30pm - Launch Event for the new NBHA website, Northampton Central Library, Abington Street, Northampton

1 April, 9.00am - NBHA Bristol Day Visit, leaves from Doddridge Centre

8 April - National Black and Asian Studies Association Annual Conference, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

27 April, 6.30pm - NBHA Committee, Guildhall, Northampton

15 June, 6.30pm - NBHA Committee, Guildhall, Northampton

17 June - Northampton Carnival

1 July - Race 2 Score Black History Performance, Cripps Theatre, Northampton

8 July - Local History Day School, Lower Mounts, Northampton, organised through the NBHA / University of Northampton Partnership

Shangwe Reading Group

2nd Tuesday of every Month@Wellingborough Library, 6-7pm discussing books by and for Black and mixed race women.

Contact: jomoore@northamptonshire.gov.uk for more details

John Moore Community and Reader Development Librarian

Where can you find us?

Northamptonshire Black History Association is based at

Doddridge Centre, 109 St James Road, Northampton NN5 5LD

Phone: 01604 590967

Email: admin@northants-black-history.org.uk

Please contact us at this address for further information on all NBHA's plans and activities, and please come and join in!
