



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE **Black History** ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Autumn 2009

Volume 7 Issue 3

Umbrella Fair

NBHA were delighted to be invited to the third Northampton Umbrella Fair and on Saturday 15th August NBHA members set up a stall ready to spread the word about the work of the association. Early in the morning a gazebo was erected offering protection from the elements on the Racecourse for NBHA volunteers and members of the public. Unfortunately it did not last long and within half an hour the extremely blustery winds had reduced the gazebo to a pile of material and broken poles!!



However, this did not stop the team and once cleared away the day proved to be warm, sunny and very successful.

Set up as a co-operative of local people the objective of the Umbrella Fair is to bring together as many people and as wide a range of the community of Northampton to expose them to a message about sustainable living, environmentalism, community cohesion and co-operation.



This was an ideal opportunity for NBHA to showcase its current publications, which include the excellent educational resource material produced as a result of the *Shaping The Future* project, as well as our local history book *Sharing The Past*. The association was able to reach a wide and varied audience updating them on the work of NBHA with the chance to hand out copies of our newsletters and publication

promotional leaflets. A large number of new contacts were also made requesting follow-up information.

NBHA look forward to attending more of these events and if anyone has any ideas for similar future events please contact the office on 01604 590967.

Thanks to Sanaa, Jean, Elhora, Julia, Omar and Angela for their time and hard work in making the day such a success.



Annual General Meeting, 2009

Northamptonshire Black History Association's AGM was particularly lively and enjoyable this year. Members and supporters of the Association gathered at the Doddridge Centre on 9 July for a full evening of business and entertainment. Opening with refreshments and displays of NBHA publications, the gathering proceeded to formal business then concluded with presentations, speakers and a music show from the Jah Troopers.



Registration desk: Ruchira & Chris

Donna Palmer-Smith, NBHA chair, welcomed everyone to the AGM with a summary of some of the year's achievements and warm thanks for everyone's hard work. Highlights of 2008-09 have included achievement of charity status, completion of our Shaping the Future education project, publication of our *Sharing the Past* book, successful projects in local schools, and collaboration with English Heritage to

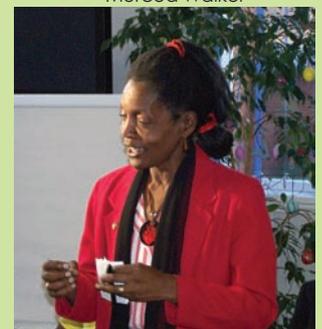
produce a Black History ruler. NBHA's partnership with the University of Northampton has also gone from strength to strength, with three successful Black History courses and University sponsorship of our publications.

Mrs Lateef receives her *Living Memories* pack

Membership elections followed, with each nominee explaining why they want to join the NBHA Committee. Anne-Marie Sandos was elected as a new Trustee, and Paul Bracey and Julia Bush re-elected. Thanks were given to retiring Trustees

Terry Bracher and Marjorie Morgan. Angela Ghavami, Peggie Price and George Watley were elected as Committee members, and thanks given to Janet Douglas-Hall on her retirement. Nikki Taylor and Paul Bracey next introduced our final two *Shaping the Future* curriculum packs, titled *Living Memories* and *Northamptonshire in Global Context*. *Living Memories* is based upon oral history interviews, and it was a pleasure to present free packs to some of the people who made this pack possible: Farhat Lateef, Sylvia Bowmer and June White-Gulley.

Morcea Walker was our principal guest speaker, explaining and promoting the Northamptonshire Black High Achievers Project. Two young people who have benefited from the project, Dion McKenzie and Aleisha Corrodus, told us about their hopes for the future.



Morcea Walker



Dion McKenzie /Aleisha Corrodus



Jah Troopers

Then everyone was ready for more food, drink and music with the Jah Trooper Show, who gave us a musical journey from the 1960s to 2009, as well as some great singing!

NBHA's new Management Committee holds its first meeting on Thursday 24 September, and we will be setting up sub-committees and planning our activities for the year ahead.

Here are some activities already on the horizon:

1. Hosting a major exhibition about Black and Asian contributions to the Armed Services, to be held at Northampton Guildhall in early March 2010
2. Partnership work with Patel Samaj and Somali Forum
3. Two Black British History evening courses
4. Oral History research project on Caribbean consumer behaviour
5. Black Heritage Clubs in schools
6. Promotion of NBHA educational materials
7. Publication of a book of Special Studies in Black British History

We will also be giving talks, welcoming visiting speakers, and running Day Trips as in previous years.

Can you suggest a good place to go on a Black History Day Trip in 2009-10?

Please contact NBHA office as soon as possible with your suggestions.

Black History Course

Do you want to learn more about Black British history, but haven't had the opportunity? Would you like to know more about Northamptonshire's role in the development of Black British history? Would you like to discover information about the interesting local Black British history research recently undertaken and currently ongoing? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, this course will interest you.

The popular Black British History course run jointly by the University of Northampton and Northamptonshire Black History Association will be held on Monday's commencing **28 September 2009** from 6-8pm for 11 consecutive weeks at the University Park Campus. Some of the subjects covered include the history of Black British people in the military, education, sport and culture, as well as Northamptonshire's role in this rich history.

Prior students have commented that the course:

- '... fuelled my need for finding out more about the people ... studied.'
- '... relates to my voluntary work in the community.'
- '... will help me to enlighten my team colleagues.'
- '... relates to everyone's history especially in the period of multiculturalism.'

Guest lecturers will be provided as well to enrich the educational experience, including Marika Sherwood (keynote guest lecturer on 12 October 2009), Jenny Labbon of the NBHA and Nourredine Miladi of the University of Northampton, as well as other guest lecturers to be determined.

The course costs £60, which includes access to the university library and library resources. If you have any questions or wish to enrol please contact George Watley at george.watley@northampton.ac.uk or 01604 892512. People of all ages and prior educational backgrounds are welcome, including under 18s.

Oral History

George Watley is currently in the process of interviewing people as part of the 3 year project researching the consumer behaviour of Northamptonshire Caribbean people c. 1955-1980.

Presentations of initial research findings have been made within the last few months to local and regional audiences, including the East Midlands Oral History Archive (EMOHA) and the Historical Association of Northamptonshire. The EMOHA presentation was part of a one day event held at the Centre for Urban History in the University of Leicester on 12th June 2009. Jenny Labbon presented on the original and continuing oral history work of NBHA.

Future plans include presenting the consumer behaviour research in a travelling roadshow visiting various local and national locations commencing sometime in late 2010 or early 2011. Furthermore, there is the possibility for this research to be presented to international audiences including Barbados, Czech Republic and the United States.

Introducing Patel Samaj of Northampton

NBHA welcomes Jayant Patel to join our Management Committee in 2009-10. We look forward to working more closely with Northampton's Gujarati Hindu community during the year ahead.

Patel Samaj is one of the busiest community organisations in Northamptonshire, with a large and active membership and a wide range of activities for men, women and children. These include a Friday night Youth Club, Aerobics classes, Walking Club, Saheli Ladies Club, Men's Monthly Club and a new Health Project, as well as religious events.

The autumn months are particularly busy for the Hindu community, who welcome the general public to many of their events. From 19-28 September the Navratri Folk Dance Festival will be taking place at the Northants County Cricket Club, Abington Avenue, Northampton at 8pm each evening. On Sunday 11 October many people will enjoy the Diwali Celebrations in Northampton town centre, from 4pm onwards.

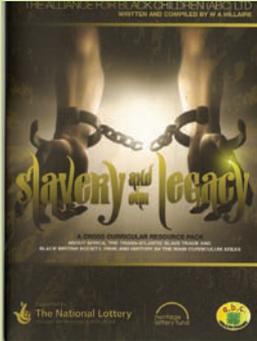
The latest Patel Samaj Newsletter gives a good picture of a thriving organisation, and can be read through the Samaj Patel website: www.Patel-Samaj.com.

Carnival Archive

The UK Centre for Carnival Arts (UKCCA) is a national organisation and leading agency for carnival in all its guises. It works from a strategic to grass roots level complementing and supporting agendas for neighbourhood renewal and regeneration, tourism development, arts in education, business development and community cohesion.

NBHA is one of a number of local organisations contacted by UKCCA as they aim to develop a project to gather together an archive about the rich history of Carnival and street celebrations in the eastern region. More details to follow.

NBHA congratulates Wayne Hillaire and the Alliance for Black Children on the launch of their cross curricular resource pack, *Slavery and Our Legacy*. Funded by the



Heritage Lottery Fund, this pack aims to investigate the legacies of the Atlantic slave trade in modern day Britain and British society. It includes material about pre-slavery Africa, the Caribbean during the Atlantic slave trade, and modern Black British culture. The Wellingborough-based project has been developed through work with groups and individuals to investigate their own memories, experiences and feelings about what it is to be Black British. What remnants of the slave trade still exist in modern society and what is the impact of these on the behaviour and experiences of the descendants of slaves? A number of volunteers have helped investigate these issues, and partners have included HMP Wellingborough, ABC's Holiday Activity programme, Azuka House, Wellingborough Museum, Wellingborough Library and the Northamptonshire Record Office. The striking design for the pack was created by Garvi Design. It includes pictures, maps, poems and key facts, as well as suggested resources and a number of exercises which can be followed through in schools or community groups.

For further details, contact the Alliance for Black Children (ABC) at the White House, Rocklands, Jacksons Lane, Wellingborough NN8 4LB: phone 01933 222775 or email theallianceforblackchildren@hotmail.com.

Open Lecture Invitation

Marika Sherwood, author of ***After Abolition: Britain and the Slave Trade since 1807***, will discuss Britain's role in the slave trade and slavery in the 19th and 20th centuries. You are invited to arrive at Holdenby 39, University of Northampton, Park Campus on 12 October 2009 (6pm) where Marika will enlighten us about how the slave trade and slavery in Britain did not end in either 1807 or 1833, as is commonly believed.

Are you helping to Shape Our Future?

In 2005 the report "Black is Also British" was presented at the Black and Asian Studies Association conference held in Northampton. Research concluded that 78% of teachers surveyed stated that there were no resources on Black British history.

In response to these findings NBHA has produced a set of high quality National Curriculum teaching and learning packs. Available from the NBHA office.

Have you seen them?

Why not log on to the NBHA website now and take advantage of the FREE downloads worth £40. (www.northants-black-history.org.uk)



Creative approaches to teaching

Are your children using them in school? Why not contact the office for a copy of the promotional leaflet to take into your school. (01604 590967 or admin@northants-black-history.org.uk)

What's My Name ?

Birmingham poet **Roy MacFarlane** in May 2009 celebrated the La Bouche du Roi art installation with a selection of his poems about slavery, past and present. Roy was born in Birmingham but has lived most of his life in Wolverhampton and has been writing for seven years. As resident poet at Starbucks, a solo performer and a member of the New October Poets he has performed in numerous venues, sharing the stage with poets such as Roi Kwabena and Fred D'Aguiar. Roy's first play; For the Love of Auset, premiered at the Drum in June 2007.

In November 2007 he starred in the dramatised spoken word production, Field Slave Number 139. Roy has also been published in an anthology of short stories called Original Skin. Away from his writing Roy is Equalities and Diversity Officer for Birmingham City Council.

What's my name?

On February 6, 1967. Terrell had angered Ali by calling him Clay, and the champion vowed to punish him for this insult. During the fight, Ali kept shouting at his opponent, "What's my name, Uncle Tom ... What's my name?"
Terrell suffered 15 rounds of brutal punishment.

What's my name; when they spoke of picaninies scaring grannies?
What's my name; if you wanted a nigger for a neighbour vote labour?
What's my name; when we shot Malcolm X?
What's my name; when they shot Martin Luther King?

What's my name; when there was a fear that this country might be swamped. And you know, the British character has done so much for democracy...?
What's my name; when the Mangrove 9 was set free?
What's my name; when we were singing free Nelson Mandela?
What's my name; when they killed Steve Biko?

What's my name; when dem tum him in him belly an it turn to jelly?
What's my name; when mi jook one in him eye an him start to cry?
What's my name; when you wrote about me in the Scarmen Report?
What's my name; when 13 people died in the New Cross Fire?

What's my name; if I fail the Tebbit test and support the West Indian cricket team?
What's my name; when they spoke of me in the McPherson Report?
What's my name; when Rodney King got beat in Los Angeles
What's my name when they killed Stephen Lawrence?

What's my name; when we express deep sorrow rather than a full apology for slavery.?
What's my name; when Obama's sitting in the White house singing yes we can
What's my name; when they killed Tupac and Biggie?
What's my name; when they killed Letisha and Charlene?

For the last three years Northampton University and Northamptonshire Black History Association have been running a course of Special Studies in Black British History. During the course students research and write an extended essay. The topics are chosen by the students themselves and supported by the University staff and resources. Students have covered topics from a range of eras from post war history to medieval times.

On Saturday 5 September the NBHA editorial committee met to select book chapters from the range of studies that students had written. When looking at the essays the committee were struck by the hard work that many of the students had put into their studies. They were fascinating. Some unearthed new research or brought a new perspective to the study of Black History. It was very difficult choosing from the high quality work available. In the end we chose thirteen essays which encompass a range of subjects, eras and ethnicities.

Northamptonshire Somali Community

Somali people come from the Cushitic family on the Horn of Africa. The Somali community are known to have sheltered in Northamptonshire since 1998 and in 2000 formed the Somali community association.

In 2003 it was re-launched as the Northamptonshire Somali Community. The group works closely with many agencies to ensure that all Somalians receive the appropriate information and advice.

To achieve community cohesion and to work within diversity communities, the association aims to build good relationships with local minority ethnic communities, the wider community and faith forums. The association are currently working closely with local MPs Sally Keeble and Brian Binley and has built good relations with Northampton police and the Police Authority.

The association provides a service to the community, sign posting to local services, housing and health information. They also provide mental health training and recovery programmes for those in need.

For further information contact Mr. Abade Mohamed Ahmed, Community Adviser on 07508300284. or abade68@hotmail.com



Unsung Hero Award 2008

Abade Ahmed from Northampton was the winner of Northamptonshire Police Authority's 2008 Unsung Heroes award. Deidre Newham, chair of the Police Authority, presented Abade with a trophy and a cheque for £500 in recognition of his outstanding support to the Hate Crimes Unit. Abade has been instrumental in building a bridge between Northamptonshire Police and the Somali community in Northampton.

Councillor Derek Lawson, chair of the Unsung Heroes judging panel, said: "Abade's was an outstanding nomination as his role is pivotal to ensuring that a minority community in the community feels safe and supported."

19 Sept	NBHA presentation at Legacies and Futures conference, Ruskin College, Oxford.
19-28 Sept	Navrati Folk dance Festival, Northants County Cricket Club, 8pm.
24 Sept	NBHA Committee meeting, Doddridge Centre, Northampton, 7 pm.
28 Sept	Induction session for Black British History: From Past to Present, University of Northampton, Park Campus, Boughton Green Road, 6pm.
11 Oct	Diwali Celebrations, Northampton, 4pm onwards.
12 Oct	'Slavery & Britain's role in the slave trade', Open lecture by Marika Sherwood at the University of Northampton, 6pm.
2-6 Nov	Equality & Diversity/One World Week - A series of lectures and debates, University of Northampton. Details contact equality@northampton.ac.uk
7 Nov	United Social Cricket Club, Annual Dinner & Dance, Overstone Park
3-6 Mar 2010	<i>We Were There</i> exhibition at Northampton Guildhall.

STOP PRESS: Northamptonshire Rights & Equality Council

The Northamptonshire Racial Equality Council are planning to launch as the **Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council (NREC)** on Tuesday 1st December. Details are yet to be confirmed but will likely be a lunchtime event in Northampton.

For further information contact the NREC office at info@northamptonshirerec.org.uk



STOP PRESS: Army Exhibition, 3-6 March 2010

Exciting news! NBHA has just received confirmation that we will be hosting a major national exhibition at Northampton Guildhall next spring. The *We Were There* exhibition was created by the Ministry of Defence in 2006 and has been touring the country ever since. It highlights the important contribution made by Britain's minority ethnic communities to defence over the past two hundred and fifty years.

Don't miss this opportunity to see a great display: more details soon.

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

Website: www.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!



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Northamptonshire
County Council