



**Slave Trade Abolition  
in Cambridgeshire  
& Suffolk  
(STACS)**



## **PRESS RELEASE/PHOTO CALL**

**WHAT: STACS PROJECT SCHOOLS EVENT: CLARKSON MEMORIAL COMPETITION  
AFRICAN HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEN: Wednesday 10 October 6.30-8.30**

**WHERE: Ipswich Caribbean Association**

**CONTACT:** Press attendance must be confirmed in advance, contact Rev'd Duncan Dormor [djd28@cam.ac.uk](mailto:djd28@cam.ac.uk) 01223 338633 or Sophie Weeks [sophie.weeks@gmail.com](mailto:sophie.weeks@gmail.com) 01223 696708/07882497291 or Dale Banham 07985191255 (STACS Suffolk)

### **SCHOOL PUPILS PRESENT**

## **WHY SHOULD IPSWICH REMEMBER ABOLITIONIST THOMAS CLARKSON?**

Clarkson was a Cambridge graduate and local hero, who founded the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade with his friend Granville Sharp and collected crucial evidence to support the abolition of the slave trade. This included interviewing 20,000 sailors, publishing the infamous plan of the slave ship, The Brookes, and obtaining equipment used on the slave-ships such as iron handcuffs, leg-shackles, thumb screws, instruments for forcing open slave's jaws and branding irons. While studying at ST Johns College Cambridge that Clarkson wrote an essay about the slave trade that would change the course of his life and the many other lives.

Why has his life long struggle to abolish slavery been overshadowed by others?

**Year 9 pupils from Holbrook High School, Holywells High School and Thurleston High School**

uncover the facts and present their ideas to a live audience including City and County Councillors. They argue why Clarkson's role should be valued alongside that of other abolitionists, such as African former slave Olaudah Equiano who also campaigned and settled in the local area.

Who and what would a memorial be for? What would it look like?

**Pupils present their own designs. The best ideas will be presented to the Fellows of Clarkson's former college, St John's College Cambridge, in November.**

A panel of distinguished **judges** will listen to the ideas and offer their thoughts: Antoine Ingram (Project Manager, ICA), David Jones (Keeper, Human History, Ipswich Museum), Lesley Walker ((Heritage Learning Officer, Suffolk County Council) and Del White (Director, nia Project)

### **STACS Project Background**

This event is the second phase of **Slave Trade Abolition in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk (STACS)** an HLF funded education project managed by St John's College Cambridge, marking the 200th anniversary of the 1807 Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

The aim is to raise awareness of the highly significant, yet often overlooked role played by Thomas Clarkson and Olaudah Equiano within the slave trade abolition movement in East Anglia, working with six schools in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk.

The third and final phase of the project will see the publication of **new curriculum material** distributed to all schools in these counties, with potential for a national launch in 2008.

Sir Keith Ajegbo recommended that learning about the slave trade be compulsory in his 'Diversity and Citizenship Curriculum Review 2007:

'We are strongly of the opinion that developing an appreciation of the relevant historical context is essential to understanding what it means to be a citizen of the UK today'.

Further information can be found at [http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/admissions/outreach\\_access/stacs/](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/admissions/outreach_access/stacs/)

**ENDS**

