

Events across
Greater
Manchester

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REVEALING HISTORIES
REMEMBERING SLAVERY



RENAISSANCE
NORTH WEST
museums for
changing lives



arts about manchester

www.revealinghistories.org.uk

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March 25th 2007

marked **two hundred years** since the **Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in Britain**. The history of slavery and its abolition is a shared history and one that is relevant to Greater Manchester's past and present.

*I own I am shocked at this purchase of slaves,
And fear those who buy them and sell them, are knaves:
What I hear of their hardships, their tortures and groans,
Is almost enough to draw pity from stones.
I pity them greatly, but I must be mum
For how could we, in Manchester, do without cotton, sugar and rum?
Especially sugar, so needful we see,
What, give up our desserts, our coffee and tea?
Adapted from William Cowper 1788*

Accessible formats and community languages are available, email info@revealinghistories.co.uk, text 000000 or call Arts About Manchester on 0161 234 2955.



REVEALING HISTORIES

seeks to uncover our region's involvement in the slave trade and the social and economic effects of this, as well as its key contribution to slavery's ultimate abolition.

Eight museums and galleries across Greater Manchester are joining together to commemorate the lasting legacy of the transatlantic slave trade.

The eight participating venues for Revealing Histories are:

Bolton Museum & Archive Service
Gallery Oldham
Manchester Art Gallery
The Manchester Museum
Museum of Science & Industry
People's History Museum
Touchstones Rochdale
The Whitworth Art Gallery

Revealing Histories takes a fresh look at the collections of these museums and galleries and the buildings they live in, revealing hidden histories of the region's involvement in the slave trade. The project will also question slavery's contemporary legacy and its relevance today.

We are currently producing a series of creative, informative and stimulating events with people of all ages and backgrounds across Greater Manchester.

If you would like to know more, please fill in the form at the back of this brochure and send back to us using the freepost address.

Visit our website at www.revealinghistories.org.uk



bolton museum and archives

Bolton was a cotton town. People in Bolton were reliant on the plantations of the Southern states of America for the supply of raw cotton. Samuel Crompton's Spinning Mule revolutionised the cotton trade, creating increased demand for cotton and thus for slaves to work the cotton plantations.

what's on

Date tbc

event: open minds performance

The museum will be hosting a play, specially created by the pupils of Turton High School Media Arts College with the playwright Cathy Crabb. The play has been inspired by research conducted at Bolton Museum, The Manchester Museum, The People's History Museum and Manchester Cathedral. Date and times tbc please go to www.boltonmuseums.org.uk for details. Free.

August 23rd 2007

event: african folk stories

Bolton Museum and Archive Service is launching a trail around the galleries that re-interprets the objects on display in the context of slavery and its legacies. At the centre of the trail is Samuel Crompton's spinning mule. The only surviving mule made by the inventor himself, it dates to 1802 and is probably the most important object in the collection. Event times: All day. Free. Open: Monday - Saturday 9am to 5pm. Closed Sundays.

October 6th & 27th 2007

event: african folk stories

Bolton Museum will be hosting African folk story-telling sessions. Visitors will be encouraged to create their own stories, poems and artwork inspired by what they hear, see and read. The best of this work will then be displayed in the museum.

Also in October the Bolton Council Fairness Team will be providing copies of James Watkins' diary and a leaflet on Watkins' role in encouraging the abolition of slavery. James Watkins was an escaped slave who toured England, speaking on the horrors of the slave trade and of life as a slave. Event times: All day. Free.



gallery oldham

At Gallery Oldham we're exploring the links between the transatlantic slave trade and our local history. A series of exhibitions and events using the Gallery's collections reveal some surprising and unfamiliar histories and connections.

what's on

18th August - 17th November 2007

exhibition: oldham votes

Oldham Votes looks at key elections in Oldham's history. These include the 1832 election, at which the nephew of anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce stood and the abolition of slavery was hotly debated. Exhibition times: All day. Free. Open: Monday - Saturday 10am to 5pm. Closed Sundays.

17th November 2007 - 2nd February 2008

exhibition: cops and bobbins

Cops and Bobbins looks at the history of the textile industry in Oldham and Saddleworth and reveals some of the early links between slavery and cotton. Exhibition times: All day. Free.

18th August 2007 - 2nd February 2008

trail: talking about slavery

A trail around the Gallery features items from the collections and reveals Oldham's links to the slave trade. Can you imagine what a sugar bowl or a snuffbox might have to do with slavery? Event times: All day. Free.

23rd August 2007

talk: oldham panorama

On International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition curator Sean Baggaley will use the Oldham Panorama, a series of photographs taken in 1876, to talk about the effects of the US Civil War on Oldham. Event times: 13:00. Free.

14th November 2007

talk: revealing the links

Curator Dinah Winch reveals the many links to the history of slavery in Gallery Oldham's collections. Event times: 13:00. Free.



manchester art gallery

Our collection of fine art and decorative objects reveals the wealth generated by the region's involvement in the transatlantic slave trade and the sugar, tea, coffee and tobacco consumption that fuelled it.

what's on

25th March 2007 - 25th March 2008 trail: remembering slavery

Every object tells a story. For this trail, we've chosen six objects from our collections that have a connection to the transatlantic slave trade and its impact on the history of Greater Manchester. Pick up a map and explore. Event times: All day. Free.

From 23rd August 2007 create: medal of freedom

What does freedom mean to you? Create your own medal of freedom and display it in the gallery. Event times: All day. Free.

05th August 2007 event: sugar secrets & survival songs

Hear Tina Tamsho-Thomas perform her poetry commissioned in response to the objects connected to sugar. Musicians Urban Voice perform 'Lobi koe' charting the journey of music from Africa, through enslavement, to abolition, freedom and the present day. Event times: 14:00-16:00. Free.

14th October 2007 event: sugar secrets & fair trade chocolate

Follow the Revealing Histories trail, which, for one day only, finishes at a Fairtrade chocolate fountain! Event times: 13:00-15:00. Free.

From 14th October 2007 exhibition: manchester attitude

Local community groups have worked with us to create a new display expressing their thoughts about the legacy of Manchester's involvement in the transatlantic slave trade. Event times: 13:00-15:00. Free.

museum of science and industry

what's on

10th August 2007 - 31st March 2008 trail: remembering slavery

Manchester's economic success from the late 18th century onwards relied on its international trading links, particularly with the United States. The transatlantic slave trade played a major role in keeping down the cost of imported raw materials vital to Manchester's industrial development. Find out how the Museum's collections relate to slavery, by following our trail. Event times: All day. Free.

23rd August 2007 event: the other cotton story

Find out more about the link between textiles in Manchester and slavery, and contribute to a commemorative artwork to be exhibited at the Museum. Event times: 11:00-13:00 and 14:00-16:00. Drop-in. Free. 5+.

people's history museum

The museum will close to the public on 7th October for a multi million pound redevelopment. In the meantime why not come along to experience the Revealing Histories trail? The tour takes visitors around the galleries highlighting objects with links to slavery.

what's on

16th September 2007 event: how do you plead?

Living History performance with William Cuffay whose father was a freed slave. Cuffay's campaign for the right to vote ended up with him being transported to Tasmania for treason" Event times: 13:00 and 14:30. Free.



the manchester museum

Many Victorian institutions, including The Manchester Museum, contributed to the racist thinking that justified slavery. We want to explore with you the difficult and sensitive issues that this raises.

what's on

Until 6th January 2008

trail: remembering slavery

New interpretation of museum displays revealing Manchester's connection to the slave trade and its legacy.

Opening 25th August 2007

event: this accursed thing

Created by a group of activists, collectors, and academics, a selection of objects and images that were used to support racist ideas, and the ways in which individuals and organisations have worked to dispel these myths. We invite you to question the displays in the rest of the Museum.

25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th August 2007 full day of events

A powerful promenade performance around the Museum looking into the transatlantic slave trade through the eyes of the people who were there. Event times: 11:00-12:15, 12:45-14:00, 14:15-15:30 (only 11:00-12:15, 12:45-14:00 on 29th August). Please book, call 0161 275 2648. Free. 8+.

25th August 2007

debate: are museums racist?

Family History Workshop, 13:00-15:00. Revealing Histories Object Handling, 11:00-16:00. African Storytelling, 12noon-12:30, 14:00-14:45. Tour of Revealing Histories Object Trail and Myths about Race Exhibition, 12:30-13:15, 14:00-14:45, 15:00-15:45. Please book by calling 0161 275 2648. Free. All ages. Film Screening of Open Minds Performance, 14:00. Please book. Free. All ages.

4th October 2007

full day of events

A discussion panel will lead this debate in response to our exhibition. Event times: 18:30-20:00. Please book, call 0161 275 2648. Free. Adult event.

27th October 2007

exhibition: a local story

Family workshop with Peddy Herbert on African costumes and textile design, 13:00-16:00. Please book on 0161 275 2648. Free. All ages. Revealing Histories guided tours, 13:30 & 14:30. Book. Free. 10+. Interactive session - More than slaves, exploring cargoes. With Washington Alcott. 13:30 & 15:00. Drop-in. Free. 8+.

5th December 2007

talk: presenting contested pasts

Dr Gareth Griffiths on the foundation of the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, Bristol, and the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

touchstones rochdale

what's on

17th May - 9th September 2007

exhibition: a local story

'The Fight to End Slavery: A Local Story' examines the ensuing struggle to end slavery in North America and Rochdale's fascinating role in this story. Find out how a Rochdale man became a close personal friend of the President of America. Discover how a sword and a barrel have been uncovered to reveal their own unique stories relating to slavery and the people of Rochdale. Event times: All day. Free. Open: Monday - Saturday 10am to 5pm. Sundays & Bank Holidays 12pm to 4.30pm.

7th July - 16th September 2007

exhibition: linking threads

Linking Threads: Textile industrialists and the art collection, focuses on works given to the Rochdale Art Gallery collection by benefactors who had links to the local textile industry such as Robert Taylor Heape and Richard Heape. These donations and bequests have formed a significant part of the collection, of which an eclectic selection will be on display. Event times: All day. Free.



the whitworth art gallery

what's on

16th June 2007 – 27th April 2008

exhibition: trade & empire

Trade and Empire: Remembering Slavery explores the themes of trade and empire, commerce and collecting, and the impact and resonance of the experience of slavery and its legacy, within the context of the bicentenary of the parliamentary abolition of the British slave trade in 2007. The exhibition has been co-produced with four guest curators: SuAndi, Kevin Dalton-Johnson, Emma Poulter and Dr. Alan Rice, who are community engaged artists and/or academic researchers working on the history of slavery, trade, empire and its legacy in Manchester and the North West.

In their selection of works, debates on the meanings of objects, and views on how the works should be displayed, the guest curators have brought a stimulating array of new voices into the Whitworth for this exhibition and have helped to unearth many previously hidden stories about the objects in our care. The show comprises selections from the Whitworth's collections, integrated with contemporary works by black artists and objects borrowed from The Manchester Museum, The John Rylands University Library Manchester, Bolton Museums and Archives Service and private collections around the North West.

Exhibition times: Monday-Saturday 10:00-17:00. Sunday 14:00-17:00. Free.

27th October 2007

event: trading for culture

Discussion and debate.
Event times: 14:00-15:30. Free.

19th April 2008

event: the value of culture

Discussion and debate.
Event times: 14:00-15:30. Free.

To join the **REVEALING HISTORIES** mailing list, simply complete the form below, cut off and send back to us using the Freepost address overleaf.

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- I would like to receive information by post
- I would like to receive information by email
- I would like to receive information from other cultural organisations in Greater Manchester

Get Involved

Throughout 2007 and 2008 we will be co-producing a series of creative, informative and stimulating events with people of all ages and backgrounds across Greater Manchester. If you would like to find out more simply tick the boxes that interest you:

- Talks, discussions and debates
- Volunteering with events
- Events for school parties
- Interpreting the collections, telling your own stories
- Making films with young people