

2007

COMMEMORATING

THE

BI-CENTENARY

OF

THE ABOLITION

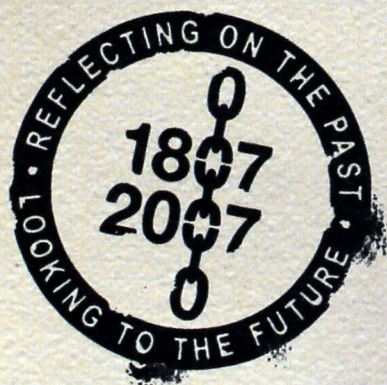
OF THE

SLAVE TRADE

A GUIDE TO EVENTS

ACROSS THE

EAST MIDLANDS



As part of the bicentenary of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, museums, archives and other venues across the East Midlands are commemorating their own connections to the abolitionist movement and to slavery itself.

Leicestershire and Rutland

The Long Road to Freedom:

The story of slavery and its abolition told through local records. A free touring exhibition showing how people in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland were involved in slavery and its abolition.

5 March - 27 April:

Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland,
Long Street, Wigston Magna,
Leicestershire

30 April - 15 May:

Highfields Library, Leicester - including
a family history event on 12 May 2 - 5pm

16 May - 1 June:

Central Lending Library, Leicester

4 - 20 June:

Abbey Pumping Station, Leicester

29 June - 9 July:

Church of the Martyrs, Westcotes Drive,
Leicester

11 July - 31 August:

Donnington le Heath manor house, Coalville

September - November:

Charnwood Museum, Loughborough

January - March 2008:

Melton Carnegie Museum



Pictures from 'The Long Road To Freedom' exhibition, courtesy of the Record Office for Leicestershire and Rutland

9 - 20 June:

'The case for Immediate not Gradual Abolition of slavery'

by Elizabeth Heyrick at Abbey Pumping Station, Leicester. Leicester-born Elizabeth Heyrick was actively involved in the anti-slavery campaign writing the pamphlet 'Immediate Not Gradual Abolition'.

9 June, 11am - 3pm - launch of the exhibition and family learning day.
6 and 18 June, 11am - 3pm - family activities.

11 October:

Guildhall Museum, Leicester: The reality of modern slavery: what can we do to break the chains again?

A conference focusing on East Midlands' connections with destitution and hardship, especially: people trafficking, child and sweat shop labour and the exploitation of economic migrants.

Keynote speaker is Baroness Cox. More information from Celia Fisher on 0116 255 9995 or celia@lass.org.uk

Nottinghamshire

The Afro-Caribbean heritage in Nottinghamshire: slavery to citizenship. Nottinghamshire Archives and MLA East Midlands are producing web resources for teachers and learners based on the life of George Africanus, a former slave from Sierra Leone who settled in Nottingham in the late 18th century. The images and information will be linked to the Key Stage 3 Citizenship and History curricula.

More information from www.emsource.org.uk during 2007.

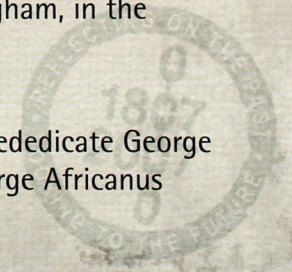
(The project is supported by funding from Department for Education and Skills and Department for Culture, Media and Sport as part of the Strategic Commissioning initiative).

22 - 26 March:

Nottingham Council House - exhibition about the life of George Africanus, the first known black person to live in Nottingham, in the context of the slave trade.

25 March:

St Mary's Church - at 3pm, the Bishop of Jamaica will rededicate George Africanus' headstone, with a church service and the George Africanus exhibition on display.



28 April - 14 June:

Sankofa

Nottingham Castle - an exhibition of images and commissioned ceramic works including those produced for museummaker.

The museummaker pieces have been created using the Wedgwood Slavery Medallion as a starting point. Young black people discussed slavery, the abolition movement and how black people have been depicted in art through history to inform an artist's design for a contemporary equivalent of the medal.



Picture from 'Sankofa', courtesy of Nottingham City Museums & Galleries

June to October:

Nottingham Castle - two of the three flower beds will be dedicated to the bi-centenary commemorations. One will depict a replicated image of the Wedgwood slavery medallion and the other will feature plantation crops such as sugar, tea and cotton.

21 September - 9 November:

Nottingham Castle - Slave Narratives. An exhibition exploring the British slave trade in the 18th century using the stories of three slavery survivors: Mary Prince, Robert Wedderburn and Quobna Ottobah Cugoana. This is a collaborative project with the Open University in the East Midlands.

29 September:

Nottingham Castle, 3pm. Slave narratives talk by Dr David Johnson, senior lecturer in the Department of Literature, Open University, exploring the content of the Slave Narratives exhibition.

October and November:

Brewhouse Yard, Nottingham, George Africanus Exhibition exploring the life of the first known black person to live in Nottingham. A loans box about his life will be available from May. Contact 0115 915 3692 for more information.

Holocaust Centre - Beth Shalom is developing visual resource materials which will draw connections between trans-Atlantic slavery and the Holocaust. The materials will be used by school groups and visitors to the centre.

Northamptonshire

Manor House Museum, Kettering is developing a loans box themed '**Rights and responsibilities: how can an individual affect a world issue**' to support the Citizenship and History curricula in secondary schools. The box will contain material on William Knibb, a local abolitionist, and current slavery. Activity sheets from the box will be available from www.learnwithmuseums.org.uk

(This project is funded through the Department for Culture Media and Sport and Department for Education and Skills Strategic Commissioning programme).

Manor House Farm, Kettering and local community groups are producing two touring exhibitions that explore Kettering's involvement with the anti-slave trade movement and issues of modern-day slavery. Local communities can borrow the exhibition or loans box via 01536 534 381 or museum@kettering.gov.uk

Oundle Museum is developing a display about the abolition of the slave trade which will be on display in the museum and on tour in local churches in May.

The University of Northampton will have a display marking the bicentenary from March onwards.

June - December 2007:

Rothwell Arts and Heritage Centre - an exhibition and DVD of the life of Rothwell-born missionary, John Smith, and his opposition to the slave trade. He was sent to Demerara and was sentenced to death for his stand in favour of the slaves against their white landowners. British Parliament overruled his death penalty, but the news reached Demerara hours too late as John Smith had already been executed.

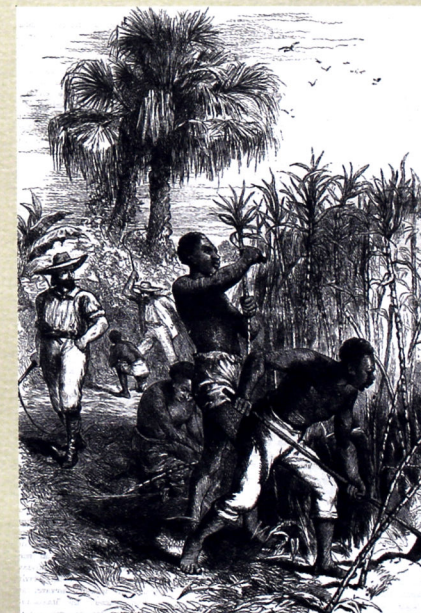


Image courtesy of the Record Office for Leicestershire and Rutland

Derbyshire

23 March, 10am – 11am at Chesterfield Library.

A presentation on Derbyshire's connections with the Slave Trade by Dr Mark Smith from Derbyshire Record Office and readings by library staff: TBC at Buxton, Dronfield, Bolsover and Ilkeston Libraries.

Thursday 29 March:

Derby Council Chambers, 7 – 8.30pm. 'Are We Not Brethren?', part of the Derby Lectures Programme, focusing on anti-slavery activity in Derby with Alasdair Kean from the University of Derby.

Booking essential on 01332 255393 or Minicom 01332 380712.

Tuesday 17 April, 10.30am – 12 noon at Derbyshire Record Office, New Street, Matlock.

Archive skills workshop: The slave trade in West Africa and the Caribbean: how to use archival sources with Dr Margaret O'Sullivan and Dr Mark Smith of Derbyshire Record Office.

Booking essential on 01629 585959 or record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk

Thursday 24 May:

Derbyshire Record Office, New Street, Matlock, 10.30am-12 noon.

Archive skills workshop: Freedom and Liberty in North America with Dr Margaret O'Sullivan of Derbyshire Record Office.

Booking essential on 01629 585959 or record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk

8 -12 October:

An exhibition to celebrate Black History Month in the foyer of **County Hall, Matlock.**

Derby City Museums and Gallery is working with an artist and young people to explore the Derby's industrial heritage and its links to the slave trade using The Silk Mill, Derby's Museum of Industry and History, as an inspiration. Tactile objects will be created to share understanding about local links with slavery and will form an exhibition in their own right.



Derby Museum and Art Gallery

Working in partnership with Derby Silk Mill and other Derwent Valley mills, a filmmaker and group of Derbyshire teenagers will make a short film looking at the development and growth of the mills in the context of the abolitionist movement: while the mill pioneers were generally opposed to the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and were considered pioneers in employee welfare and working conditions, they regarded the employment of children as entirely normal. The film will be released in December and shown in all of the mills and heritage centres along the Derwent Valley, and the National Tramway Museum at Crich.

Lincolnshire

Lincoln College is organising an awareness day about slavery and will highlight the topic in October 2007 as part of Black History Month activity. The College is developing a fact sheet to be included in a display in the Friary Learning Centre.

Lincolnshire Heritage Services is working with **Bishop Grosseteste University College** and local Afro-Caribbean communities to research Lincolnshire's connections with the Trans-Atlantic slave trade throughout history to the present day. Evidence uncovered will generate events and activities exploring the issues.

23 March:

Lincoln Central Library at 12.30 – 1.15pm – Victorian attitudes to race as seen in the Tennyson libraries. A talk by Grace Timmins.

24 March:

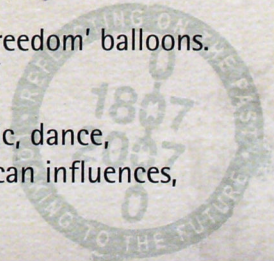
Lincoln City Square at 1.45 – 2.15pm – a community inspired commemorative event organised by Culture and Adult Education (Lincolnshire County Council), Lincolnshire African and Caribbean Support Group. The event will include a short service of remembrance and the release of 200 'Freedom' balloons.

31 March:

Christ Hospital School, Lincoln, 12.30pm – creative music, dance, movement and chants: step-by-step workshops with African influences, hosted by the Arabic School for All.



Image courtesy of the Record Office for Leicestershire and Rutland



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Events in East Midlands