
ABOLITION
200
1807 - 2007

▲

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

P R O P O S A L,

FOR THE
CONSIDERATION OF THOSE,
W H O
INTEREST THEMSELVES IN THE ABOLITION
OR PRESERVATION
OF THE
S L A V E - T R A D E.

W I T H
S O M E O B S E R V A T I O N S
A D D R E S S E D T O
THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE
PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL.

B Y A C L E R G Y M A N.

Tentantem majora———

HORACE.

Be ye wise as Serpents, and harmless as Doves.

MAT. x. 16.

W O L V E R H A M P T O N :

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, AND SOLD BY J. SMART,

Sold also by Mr. LOWNDES, Fleet Street, London; Messrs PEARSON and
ROLLASON, and Mr. SWINNEY, Birmingham; Messrs EDDOWES and
SON, Shrewsbury; and Mr. HARROP, Manchester. MDCCLXXXVIII.

ABOLITION 200 - 1807-2007

2007 marks the 200th anniversary of the passing of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. This Act stopped the trading of slaves across the Atlantic by British owned ships and merchants, but did not outlaw slavery in itself. Slaves continued to be used on the Caribbean plantations up until 1838, at which point the system was finally abolished. The 1807 Act therefore did not in itself overturn a system that had been operating for over 200 years, but nevertheless it was a significant first step towards the elimination of slavery in the British Empire.

All parts of Britain were heavily involved in the slave trade, not just port cities such as London, Liverpool and Bristol. The country's industrial centres, including Birmingham and the Black Country, produced goods that were traded in exchange for slaves, and imported goods produced by slave labour. Many wealthy families in the 18th century also had black servants, men and women who were originally sold as slaves but later brought to Britain.



Just as profits from the slave trade touched all classes in society, so people throughout Britain were also involved in its abolition. Following the example of black campaigners and writers such as Ignatius Sancho and Olaudah Equiano, local abolition groups sprung up all over the country, often led by some of the more radical non-conformist churches, of which Birmingham and Wolverhampton had a high concentration. These groups raised funds and continued to lobby parliament for a complete abolition of slavery, and in their campaign one can see echoes of today's protest movements.

Wolverhampton City Council has produced this leaflet detailing some of the events taking place in the city throughout 2007 to mark this important anniversary.

THEATRE  ROYAL,
WOLVERHAMPTON.

GRAND FASHIONABLE NIGHT!
UNDER
DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE!

Being for the
BENEFIT

AND
LAST APPEARANCE

Of the Celebrated TRAGEDIAN,

G. H. EDWARDS,

On which occasion,

THE LITTLE WONDER!

Will have the honour of-making her debut before a Wolverhampton Audience, also,

MR. J. BEDWORTH

The COMEDIAN and COMIC VOCALIST, for this Night Only.

On **TUESDAY, MARCH 9th, 1858,**

The Performance will commence with the Play of the

ST. LAURENCE

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Saturday 24 February, 2.00pm and 7.30pm

BLACK ATLAS

Two performances by the acclaimed London Shakespeare Workout, which tell the historical tale of two slaves. One, Tom Molineaux, from America becomes the first Black Prize Fighter in Britain; another is from Africa. Fate throws the two together in Regency England. Spanning three continents in 80 minutes BLACK ATLAS features an original score and depicts a vast range of key historical and fictional characters.

Tickets £9 (£7 concessions)

Arena Theatre
Wulfruna Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1SE

For further details contact the Box Office
on 01902 321321 or arena@wlv.ac.uk

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

MARCH

Sunday 25 March, 2.00pm

APOLOGISING FOR THE SLAVE TRADE: A PUBLIC DEBATE

Should the British government apologise for the slave trade?
Would such an apology achieve anything? Come along and
listen to the debate, and share your own views on this
controversial and timely issue.

Free entrance

Room MCo01
University of Wolverhampton

For further details contact
Barbara Gwinnett: b.gwinnett@wlv.ac.uk

Sunday March 25 is the exact anniversary of the passing of the
Abolition Act, and many local churches and other faith groups will
be holding services on this day to mark this important event.

God never made a Slave. *l.m.*
Britannia's sons, though slaves you be
God, your Creator, made you free;
He life to all and being gave,
But never, never made a slave!
His works are wonderful to see—
All, all proclaim the Deity!
He made the earth and form'd the wave
But never, never made a slave!
He made the stars with spangles bright
The moon to shine by silent night—
The sun—and spread the vast concave
But never, never made a slave!

Tuesday 27 March, 7.00pm

WOLVERHAMPTON, SLAVERY AND ABOLITION

Little is known about Wolverhampton's involvement in the slave trade, and its abolition. City Archivist David Bishop will use sources taken from local archives to tell the story of how Wolverhampton played a key role, both in sustaining the trade, and abolishing it. Come along and find out more about a little known aspect of the city's history, and find out how you can get involved in uncovering more of it.

Free entrance

The Light House
Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT

For further details contact David Bishop
on 01902 552480 or david.bishop@dial.pipex.com

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

MARCH - APRIL

During March and April (dates to be confirmed)

AMAZING GRACE

Screenings of this film based on the life of abolitionist campaigner William Wilberforce. The film follows his election into the House of Commons at the age of 21 and how, over the course of two decades, Wilberforce took on the English establishment and persuaded those in power to end the inhumane trade of slavery. The film stars Ioan Gruffudd, Albert Finney, Romola Garai, Michael Gambon, Rufus Sewell, Ciaran Hinds.

The Light House
Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT

For further details contact the Light House
on 01902 716055 or boxoffice@light-house.co.uk

Mr. JOHN FRANKLIN, of the Ambassadors Theatre, Holland Yard.
 Mr. REWAND, of the Theatre Royal Dublin.
 Mr. GULFERT, of the Theatre Royal, Southampton.
 Mr. COOKE, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.
 Miss CHARLOTTE COOKE, of the Theatres Royal, Holland Yard.
 Miss JANE KEATS, of the Theatres Royal Olympic and Surry.
 Miss M. STANLEY, Theatre Royal, Windsor.

Mr. COBLE, Theatre Royal
 Master WOODLEIGH
 Mr. GABRIELSON, of the St
 Mrs. H. CHESTER, former
 Miss ROSE SIDNEY, of t
 Leeds and Hull.
 Mrs. HUNTER, of the Oly
 Miss SOMERVILLE, of
 Brury Lane.
 Miss M. A. EGAN, of the S

On Monday Evening, March 1st
 The Performance in connection with a Drama of peculiar and extraordinary interest, in four
BLACK DOCTOR
 Fables, a Melodrama (the Black Doctor) Resident of the Isle of Bourbon.
 Chevalier de Leno, a French Noble.
 Biquet (a Barber, afterwards Valet to Chevalier de Leno).

JUNE - JULY

Saturday 23 June, 2.00pm

WRITING ABOUT SLAVERY

A discussion and writing workshop about slavery with the celebrated black writer Fred D'Aguiar, author of "Bloodlines", and members of Wolverhampton's Black Readers & Writers group.

Free entrance, but please note that places for this event are limited.

The Elms Community Centre
 Manby Close, Whitmore Reans
 WV6 0QR.

For further details contact Simon Fletcher
 on 01902 552061 or simon.fletcher@dial.pipex.com

Sunday 15 July, 6.30pm

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

A service marking the abolition of the slave trade, and the role of Wilberforce and Wesley in this movement.

St. Peter's Church, Queen's Square
 Wolverhampton WV1 1TL

For further details contact Reverend David Frith
 on 01902 428491 or admin@wulfruna.org.uk

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Sunday 9 September, 6.30pm

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

A service held to commemorate the bicentenary,
and to coincide with Racial Justice Sunday

New Testament Church of God,
22 Wellington Road, Bilston WV14 6AG

For further details, contact
the church on 01902 498861

Saturday 15 September - Friday 26 October

SUGAR COATED TEARS

A unique exhibition commemorating the bicentenary in a highly symbolic way. Artist Vanley Burke has worked with Black Country blacksmith Lofty Burke to re-create 40 cast iron, sugar-coated instruments of restraint and punishment that were commonly used in the transatlantic slave trade.

Sugar Coated Tears explores the connections between the commercial gains of slavery and the psychological and physical impact on its victims. Supported by the Arts Council

Wolverhampton Art Gallery
Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1DU

For further details contact the Art Gallery
on 01902 552055 or info@wolverhamptonart.org.uk

...TED, TO GO TO JAMAICA
...MITH, SADLER, and STON
...that are sober and industrious nee

Thursday 27 September, 7.30pm

A RESPECTABLE TRADE, PARTS 1 AND 2

Light House presents special screenings of the BBC's production *A Respectable Trade*, adapted by Philippa Gregory from her own novel. Set against the background of the English slave trade and starring Warren Clarke, Anna Massey, Emma Fielding, Ariyon Bakare, Richard Briars and Jenny Agutter, the production brilliantly shocks the conscience with its intimate and unsparing portrait of slavery.

The Light House
Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street,
Wolverhampton WV1 1HT

For further details contact the Light House on 01902 716055 or
boxoffice@light-house.co.uk

Thursday 4 October, 7.30pm

A RESPECTABLE TRADE, PARTS 3 AND 4

The final 2 parts of this acclaimed BBC drama.

The Light House,
Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street,
Wolverhampton WV1 1HT

For further details contact the Light House
on 01902 716055 or boxoffice@light-house.co.uk

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS OCTOBER

Tuesday 9 October, 7.45pm

CITY VOICES

At this regular monthly event, members of the Black Readers & Writers' group present their take on issues around slavery.

Free entrance

The City Bar, King Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ST

For further details, contact Simon Fletcher
on 01902 552061 or simon.fletcher@dial.pipex.com

THE SLAVES;

A TRAGIC INTERLUDE.

WITH

SONGS AND OTHER POEMS

Thursday 18 October, 7.00pm

WOLVERHAMPTON, SLAVERY AND ABOLITION

Little is known about Wolverhampton's involvement in the slave trade, and its abolition. City Archivist David Bishop will use sources taken from local archives to tell the story of how Wolverhampton played a key role, both in sustaining the trade, and abolishing it.

Come along and find out more about a little known aspect of the city's history, and find out how you can get involved in uncovering more of it.

Free entrance

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Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street
Wolverhampton WV1 1HT

For further details contact David Bishop
on 01902 552480 or david.bishop@dial.pipex.com

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS OCTOBER

Saturday 27 October

OUR ANCESTORS, OUR HERITAGE, OUR STORIES

A showcase event, highlighting the work of the African Caribbean Community Panel. The Panel will present their research into the impact that the slave trade has had, what the abolition movement means to Black people today, and personal accounts of the legacy left behind by slavery.

Free entrance

Bantock House Museum
Finchfield Road
Wolverhampton WV3 9LQ

For further details, contact Glenis Williams
on 01902 552003 or glenis.williams@dial.pipex.com

As well as these events, others are being planned - look out for further details on the Wolverhampton History website:
www.wolverhamptonhistory.org.uk/resources

ELECTORS

OF

WOLVERHAMPTON,

BILSTON,

SEDGLEY, WILLENHALL,

AND

WEDNESFIELD.

While we are advocating our cause at home, let us not be careless to the condition of the poor suffering

SLAVES ABROAD.

Mr. Fryer has never yet satisfied me as to his determination in exerting himself to the emancipation of them. Can we enjoy the prosperity he promises to secure to us at home, and at the same moment reflect that we are the immediate and sole cause of keeping some thousands of our fellow creatures in a state of Slavery abroad? Can we, as Christian Bretheren, countenancing the continuance in a state of bondage of a very large portion of the inhabitants of this FREE (?) globe, and return a man as our representative who will advocate freedom in his own country, and at the same moment render his support to the existence of laws, which compel his fellow creatures to be held in an almost eternal state of bondage?—never—I have hitherto been favourable to Mr. Fryer, under the impression that he would ultimately pledge himself to

The Total Abolition of Laws affecting

SLAVERY.

I have waited even unto the eleventh hour; he still keeps this essential point in justification. I am consequently compelled to withdraw my support from the

Wolverhampton
City Council

