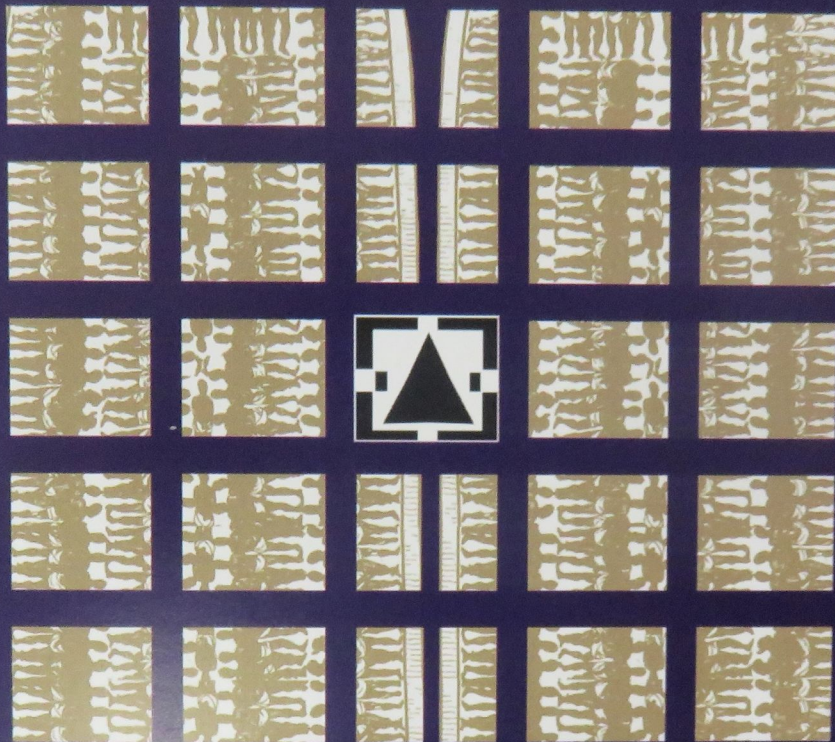


AFRICAN HISTORY MONTH 2007



SQUARING THE TRIANGLE

“Until the lion tells his tale, the tale of the hunt
will always glorify the hunter”

African Proverb



Celebrating Diversity, Shaping Culture, Embracing Art

Nia Project

T. 01473 221 715 or E. niaproject21@yahoo.com

INTRODUCTION



Welcome to African History Month 2007

This year marks the bicentennial of the abolition of the British slave trade. In many parts of the country a host of wonderful, distinctive projects have been developed to tell of this appalling chapter in British history. Addressing the legacy today brings the opportunity to focus on the hidden stories and lost voices from our past. This period, the Maafa or great disaster, was only brought to an end by the constant resistance of extraordinary people under terrible conditions.

The slave trade made vast wealth for both American and European peoples, and it took a long struggle to defeat those vested interests. The 200th anniversary of the passing of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807, reminds us all of the responsibility we have as human beings to guard and protect the sanctity of human dignity and freedom.

The trade was carried on for 500 years, and for 300 of those years Britain was the dominant trading power. Understanding Chattel slavery during this period is key to respecting the contribution made by enslaved Africans. The legacy of slavery affecting African people and their neighbours throughout the World was largely determined during this time.

This year's encompassing theme, "**Squaring the Triangle**" encourages us to discover and explore the hidden history from this period of African slavery. Much of our current and future social agenda can be better understood through an appreciation of the moral arguments, the African resistance and the economic and political background to slavery and its eventual abolition.

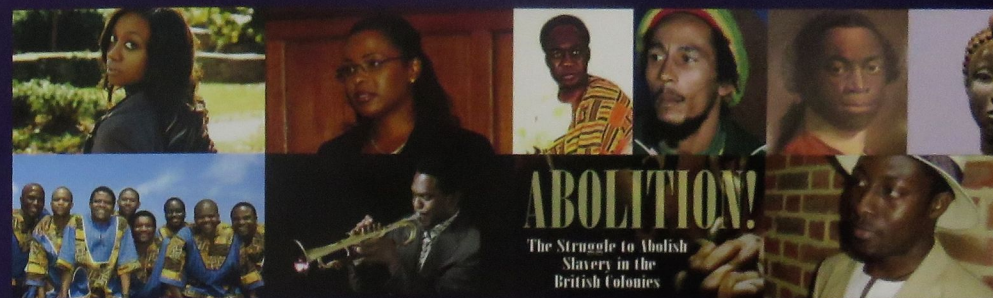
African History Month 2007 will explore the history and the legacy of slavery through film, literature, exhibitions, music and lively debate. Our spirit, of each one teach one, is inclusive for all people in

Suffolk and our region, bold, proud and inspirational and forward-looking as some of the highlights below indicates.

The keynote **Nia Memorial Lecture** takes up a truth that "**until the lion tells his tale, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.**" The lecture this year is given by Pam Solomon-Fraser, award-winning producer/director and cultural activist.

Nubian Films short season takes a critical look at the current legacy of slavery and the Diaspora of African peoples. Exhibitions at the **Colchester & Ipswich Museum and the Suffolk Record Office** focus on the crucial role played by persistent campaigner and local resident, **Thomas Clarkson** in the abolition struggle.

Talks, workshops and debates covering live issues like the recognition for reparations, retribution and resistance are guaranteed to spark real controversy



and greater understanding of diverse viewpoints. Special recognition is given to **Ghana's 50th anniversary** as an independent state, the first West African state to achieve independence in 1957. Pan African **Kwame Nkrumah** fashioned this into reality and expressed the ideal of a united Africa. In 1961 the African Union came into being. Keynote speaker for this event will be Mr Kwesi Quartey Deputy High Commissioner of Ghana.

By hearing other voices we can learn and build more on our common histories. In presenting this programme I pay respect to the words of the late **Yolanda King 1959-2007** (first born of Dr. Martin Luther King) who like her father believed profoundly in the role community plays in society. Yolanda advocated that '*we must aim to make a difference until the difference no longer makes a difference.*'

So here then is our challenge. I trust that you will engage with this year's program and let it make a difference for you.

Del White



QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



Nia Memorial Lecture

24 September
7pm
Free

Abolition! Thomas Clarkson, Ipswich and the end of the Slave Trade

27 September
10am - 5pm
Tuesday - Saturday
Free

Education Education Education! - Doirean Wilson

29 September
10 - 1pm
Free

Heritage Walks

Every Monday in October -
Departs 10am
Free

The Abolition College Book Tour

1, 8 October
Time *tbc
Colleges - Lowestoft/
Otley/West Suffolk/
Suffolk New

Lin...ij - Art Exhibition

1 - 7 October
10am - 5pm
Free

Ghana@50

3rd October
7pm
Free

Researching the Clarksons

(schools project)
4 & 5 October

Nubian Film Season Screening - Legacies

5 October - Maafa
Special post screening
Q&A session with
Producer Emma Pierre
and Director Bro.Toyin

6 October - 500 Years
Later by Owen 'Alik
Shahadah. post screen
Q&A session

12 October - I was born
a Black Woman by Maria
Luisa Mendonca and
Vincente Francos

13 October
Our Story our Voice by
Owen 'Alik Shahadah
October 5, 6 & 12, 13
7.30pm
www.hollywoodcinemas.net

African Cultural Market

6 October
10 - 5pm
Free

Miracle in Kigali

6 October
11am - 3pm
Book Launch

Fashion Afrodisiac

6 October - 25
November
10am - 5pm
Free

DaComedy Room presents Mek Mi Laugh

7 October
7.45pm
Free

STAC School Children's Clarkson Competition

10 October
6.30pm - 8.30pm
Free

* Culture Club Cards (CCC) can be obtained from the Ipswich Tourist Centre St Stephens Lane Ipswich 01473 258 070 or the Nia Project 01473 221 715 Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication.

Resistance and Abolition@ Ipswich Museum

13 October
10am - 3pm
Free

Bob Marley Tribute

17 October
7.30pm
Tickets: £5.00
concessions
subject to status

Poetry Café Sanctuary Cafe

19 October
7.30pm
Tickets: £5.00
concessions
subject to status
Limited space available
book early

Suffolk and Slavery

20 Oct
10.30am (Bury)
2pm (Ipswich)

Karibu - African Women's Support Group Reaching out promoting cultural values

20 Oct
12am - 4pm

Gospel Power Praise

20th October
7.30pm
Tickets: £5.00
concessions
subject to status

Youth Day - Zimbabwe

23 October
12am - 4.30pm
(Youth Day after party)

Storytelling @ Waterstones

25 October
10am - 11am &
3pm - 4pm
Free

Karibu - African Women's Support Group Our Children our Pride

27 October
10am - 4pm
Free

Ladysmith Black Mumbazo

27 October
7pm
Subject to booking free
Tickets: £24.50

Beverly Knight

30 October
7pm
Tickets: £22.50

Thomas Clarkson - Talk

3 November
10.30am (Bury)
3 November (Ipswich)
2pm

Diaspora Travels - Exhibition excursion
Opening in November
Depart 8am Crown
House Lay-By Crown
Street Ipswich

Venue: Museum in
Docklands West India
Quay London
Ticket: £12 available
from Ipswich Tourist
Centre and the Nia
Project.

Book early to avoid disappointment

Simply hand the CCC card to a representative from the Nia Project, at each event you attend, to be stamped. Collect six or more stamps and you will be awarded a Culture Club Certificate of attendance.

AFRICA BEFORE



Africa before the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Racist views of Africa

In the last 50 years much has been done to combat the entirely false and negative views about the history of Africa and Africans, which were developed in Europe in order to justify the Transatlantic Slave Trade and European colonial rule in Africa that followed it. In the eighteenth century such racist views were summed up by the words of the Scottish philosopher David Hume, who said, 'I am apt to suspect the Negroes to be naturally inferior to the Whites. There scarcely ever was a civilised nation of that complexion, nor even any individual, eminent either in action or in speculation. No ingenious manufacture among them, no arts, no sciences'.

In the nineteenth century the German philosopher Hegel simply declared 'Africa is no historical part of the world.' This openly racist view, that Africa had no history, was repeated by Hugh Trevor-Roper, Regius Professor of History at Oxford University, as late as 1963.

Africa, the birthplace of humanity

We now know that far from having no history, it is likely that human history actually began in Africa. The oldest evidence of human existence and that of our immediate ancestors has been found in Africa. In July 2002 further evidence of the existence of early hominids in Africa was found with the discovery of the fossilised remains of what has been called Sahelanthropus tchadensis, thought to be between 6-7 million years old, in Chad. The latest scientific research points to the fact that all human beings are likely to have African ancestors.

Trade, Cultures and Civilisations in Africa

Africa's great civilisations made an immense contribution to the world, which are still marvelled at by people today.

Ancient Egypt, which first developed over 5000 years ago, is one of the most notable of these civilisations and one of the first monarchies anywhere in the world.

However even before the rise of this civilisation, the earlier monarchy of Ta Seti was founded in Nubia, in what is today the Sudan. Egypt of the pharaohs is best known for its great monuments and feats of engineering (such as the Pyramids), but it also made great advances in many other fields too. The Egyptians produced early forms of paper and a written script.

They developed the calendar too and made important contributions in various branches of mathematics, such as geometry and algebra, and it seems likely that they understood and perhaps invented the use of zero.

They made important contributions in mechanics, philosophy, irrigation and architecture. In medicine, the Egyptians understood the body's dependence on the brain over 1000 years before the Greek scholar Democritus. Some historians now believe that ancient

Egypt had an important influence on ancient Greece, and they point to the fact that Greek scholars such as Pythagoras and Archimedes studied in Egypt, and that the work of Aristotle and Plato was largely based on earlier scholarship in Egypt. For example, what is commonly known as Pythagoras' theorem, was known to the ancient Egyptians hundreds of years before Pythagoras' birth.

How Europe learned from Africa

Some of the world's other great civilisations, such as Kush, Axum, Ghana, Mali, and Great Zimbabwe, also flourished in Africa and some major scientific advances were known in Africa long before they were known in Europe. Towards the middle of the 12th century, the north African scientist, Al Idrisi, wrote, 'What results from the opinion of philosophers, learned men and those skilled in observation of the heavenly bodies, is that the world is as round as a sphere, of which the waters are adherent and maintained upon its surface by natural equilibrium.'

Africans were certainly involved in trans-oceanic travel long before Europeans and there is some evidence to suggest that Africans crossed the Atlantic and reached the American continent, perhaps even north America, as early as 500 BC. In the 14th century, the Syrian writer, al-Umari, wrote about the voyage of the Emperor of Mali who crossed the Atlantic with 2000 ships but failed to return.

Africans in east and south-eastern Africa also set up great civilisations that established important trading links with the kingdoms and empires of India and China long before Europeans had learned how to navigate the Atlantic ocean. When Europeans first sailed to Africa in the 15th century, African pilots and navigators shared with them their knowledge of trans-oceanic travel.

It was gold from the great empires of West Africa, Ghana, Mali and Songhay, which provided the means for the economic take off of Europe in the 13th and 14th centuries and aroused the interest of Europeans in western Africa.

An early historian in the 9th century wrote 'the king of Ghana is a great king. In his territory are mines of gold.' When the famous historian of Muslim Spain, al-Bakri wrote about Ghana in the 11th century, he reported that its king 'rules an enormous kingdom and has great power'.

The king of Ghana was said to have an army of 200,000 men and to rule over an extremely wealthy trading empire. In the 14th century, the west African empire of Mali was larger than western Europe and reputed to be one of the largest, richest and most powerful states in the world. The Moroccan traveller Ibn Batuta wrote about his very favourable impressions of this empire and said that he found 'complete and general safety' there.

When the famous emperor of Mali, Mansa Musa visited Cairo in 1324, it was said that he brought so much gold with him that its price fell dramatically and had not recovered its value even 12 years later. The empire of Songhay was known, amongst other things, for the famous university of Sankore based in Timbuctu.

Aristotle was studied at Sankore and also subjects such as law, various branches of philosophy, dialectic, grammar, rhetoric and astronomy. In the 16th century one of its most famous scholars, Ahmed Baba, is said to have written more than 40 major books on subjects such as astronomy, history and theology and he had his own private library that held over 1500 volumes.



SOURCE: www.500later.com

READING LIST



1. **The Black Holocaust for Beginners**, Anderson. S.I., (1995), Writers and readers publishing incorporated
2. **Abolition**
Richard Reddie, (2006)
3. **Staying Power**
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4. **Capitalism and Slavery**, Williams. Eric, (1997), Andre Deutsch Limited
5. **Bury the Chains**
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6. **When We Ruled**
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8. **The Story of the Caribbean People**,
Ferguson. James, (1999), Ian Randle Publisher, Kingston Jamaica
9. **Pre-Colonial Black Africa, Lawrence Hill Books**, Diop. Cheik Anta, (1987)
10. **Britain's Slave Trade**, Martin. Steve, (1999), Channel 4 Books
11. **Civilization or Barbarism: An Authentic Anthropology**,
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12. **Caribbean Slavery in the Atlantic World: A Student**
Shepard, Verene & Beckles Hilary, (2000), Reader, Ian Randle Publishers, Kingston
13. **Black People in the British Empire: An Introduction**,
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15. **The Blackworld: Evolution to Revolution**,
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I: West and North Africa since 1800, Longman Nigeria
18. **Intellectual Warfare**, Carruthers. Jacob, (1999), Third World Press
19. **African Wisdom 365**, Danielle & Olivier Söllmi (2006)
20. **Ancient Futures**, Chandler. Wayne, (1999), Black Classic Press
21. **The West and the Rest of us: White predators Black slavers and the Afrikan elite**, Chinweizu. (1987), Pero Press, Lagos, Nigeria
22. **The Aboriginal Struggle: an interview with Helen Boyle in Race and Class**, Institute of Race Relations Cole. Mike, (1986)

HAITI RECOVERED



BEFORE



AFTER

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world, due to historical and economical intervention suffering from the 'slave trade', environmental disasters, political instability, brutal dictatorships, corruption and violence.

Haiti has 70% unemployment, 40% don't have access to primary health care. 1 in 4 children die before the age of 4. The life expectancy is 30 years less than the UK

The purpose of our charity is to raise awareness of the situation in Haiti, and help make a difference in the second largest city in the Country, Cap-Haitian, is situated in the north of the island.

Elections in 2006 have provided the prospect for a brighter future, with the newly elected President Rene Preval, leading the way forward with the support of UN troops.

Haiti is still crippled under the debt left behind by the previous government that refused to invest in the basic services, water, electricity, health, education and new roads. Haiti will not qualify for debt cancellation for another 2 years.

The local state run Hospital is under funded, under resourced and has a huge catchment area of over 1,000,000 people. A new medical centre is a real emergency.

In 2006 we raised enough money to refurbish a derelict building, equip and employ 15 staff in Haiti to run a fully functioning Medical clinic, and through fundraising in the UK, we continue to support this every month. However we are still in desperate need of a Land Rover style 4x4 vehicle that can cope with the road conditions, for an ambulance.

We are currently in the process of looking for corporate sponsorship for the construction costs (£720,000) for the new hospital, a fraction of the cost to build one here in England. The hospital has been planned as 12 separate buildings. First priority, is to build the maternity and infant intensive care unit.

On our first trip to Haiti we made a short film, that you can see at www.youtube.com/HaitiHospitalAppeal.



What makes this campaign such an exciting project is that anyone can get involved, everyone can make a difference. We are also hoping to secure the use of a second building nearby, to convert into a home for AIDS orphans and street children.

There are a number of ways in which you can help, for more details please visit our website www.haitihospitalappeal.org



www.haitihospitalappeal.org
Charity number 1117528



WEB LINKS



WWW.BLACK-HISTORY-MONTH.CO.UK

WWW.EVERYGENERATION.CO.UK

WWW.BBC.CO.UK/AFRICABEYOND

WWW.AIFIWESTATION.COM

WWW.COLOFULRADIO.COM

WWW.LIGALI.ORG

WWW.INSAKA.ORG

WWW.DIDUKNOW.INFO/SLAVERY

WWW.DOCSOUTH.UNC.EDU/NEH

WWW.NEWNATION.CO.UK

WWW.DISCOVERINGBRISTOL.ORG.UK

WWW.BISPUBLICATIONS.COM

WWW.SETALLFREE.NET

WWW.DESIRETOINSPIRE.COM

WWW.NMM.AC.UK/FREEDOM



AFRICAN LEGACY

MARCUSGARVEYELHAJJMALIKSHABAZZANGELADAVIS
STEVEBIKOBCHAKAZULUGEOERGEJACKSONBOOKER
T.WASHINGTONSTOCKLEYCARMICHAEL
ELIJAHMUHAMMADMILESDAVISLORRAINEHANSBERRY
MAURICEBISHOPBOBBYSEALMARTINLUTHERKING
HUEYP.NEWTONPATRICELUMMUUBAQUEENNZINGA
PAULROBESONHARRYBELFONTEDANNYGLOVER
KWAMETOUREW.E.B.DUBOISDENMARKVESSEYH
ARRIETTUBMANMUHAMMADALIAHMEDEKOU-
TOUREMIRIAMMAKEBAHAILESELLASIEPETERTOSHKWAME
NKRUMAHNELSONMANDELAWINNIEMANDELA
TOUSSAINTL'OVERTUREFRANCOISMACANDALASKIA
MUHAMMADMUHAMMADBELLOMANSAMUSAERROL
BARROWJOMOKENYATTAFREDRICKDOUGLASNAT
TURNERBUSSAROSAPARKNEGUSAMIRIBARAKAJOHN
LAROSEMACKAB.LINTONKWESIJOHNSONGABRIEL
PROSSERTHOMASSANKAKARAJOHNCOLTRANESPIKE
LEENINASIMONEMALCOLMXROBINWALKER
RICHARDPRYORJAMESALLENBILLCOSBYCHUCKD.
DEADPREZJAMESBROWNBOMARLEY
GILLSCOTTERONSTEVIEWONDERHAKIMADI
IGNATIUSSANCHOQUOBNAOTTOBAHCUGOANO

“They will remember that we were sold but they won’t remember that we were strong.

They will remember that we were bought but they won’t remember that we were brave”.

William Prescott former enslaved African

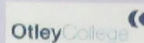
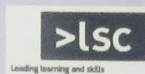
The bicentennial year has truly been remarkable in many ways. As a nation we are bravely taking steps to address unrecognised truths, we have not yet arrived at a place of full over-standing, but the reparations ‘to repair’ has begun. The Nia Project welcomes the opportunity to enhance and empower our collective journey.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners, sponsors, friends and volunteers for their support of this years program. We also look forward to their continued support as well as collaborating with other organisations in the future. Special thanks to Cindy Soso, Mia Morris, Pam Solomen Fraser, Michael Eboda, Anissa-Jane, Sons of Africa and a host of ancestors.

Celebrating Diversity, Shaping Culture, Embracing Art

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