

HISTORY & SOCIAL ACTION DIARY & NEWS No. 48 October 2013

Contents. Page:

- 1: John Archer Commemoration Events; Paul Robeson Art is a Weapon Festival
- 2: Events
- 5: Wandsworth News
- 6: Croydon News; General News
- 7: Part-time Co-ordinator, Essential Services Access Forum - recruitment details; What are Charities For?
- 8: Edward Rushton and Romantic Liverpool
- 9: The Great War at Home

JOHN ARCHER COMMEMORATION

The 100th Anniversary of John Archer's Mayoral Year 1913/14 begins in November. I am giving two talks to kick-start the commemoration.

Wednesday 23 October. 6.30pm. Why John Archer Is Important.

Battersea Library, Lavender Hill, London, SW11. Part of Wandsworth Black History Month programme.

Wednesday 6 November. 6pm. Town Hall Stories: John Archer, London's First Black Mayor

I will discuss his role in municipal politics. Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London, SW11. Part of BAC's heritage celebrations. The building was originally Battersea Town Hall. To pre-book go to www.bac.org.uk/content/30975/see_whats_on/current_shows/cook_up/town_hall_stories_john_archer_londons_first_black_mayor

Wednesday 13 November. 10.30am. English Heritage Plaque Unveiling, 55 Brynmaer Rd, Battersea, SW11

The plaque will be unveiled by Councillor Angela Graham, the Mayor of Wandsworth. I will speak about Archer. **Everyone welcome to come.**



Published by History & Social Action Publications. Compiled and edited by Sean Creighton. 19 October 2013. To ensure your event can be included please email me the details: sean.creighton1947@btinternet.com.

PAUL ROBESON ART IS A WEAPON FESTIVAL

The Festival organised by Tayo Aluko at the Tristan Bates Theatre is entering its final week. 1A Tower St, Covent Garden, London, WC2. www.tristanbatestheatre.co.uk.

Call Mr Robeson

Tuesday 22 - Saturday 26 October. 7.30pm.

Tayo Aluko's must see examination of Robeson's life with songs. 7.30pm;

Wednesday 23 October. 11.30am. Schools Matinee

Talks:

Thursday 22 October. 6.10pm. Luke Daniels - The Federation of the West Indies

Wednesday 23 October. 6.10pm. Nick Draper - Unearthed: Tracing Legacies of British Slave Ownership

Thursday 24 October. 6.10pm. Lindsey German

Friday 25 October. 6.10pm. Professor Gus John - Making the Global African Diaspora the Sixth Region of Africa, and central to the 21st Century African Renaissance

Saturday 26 October. 2.10pm. Jak Beula - The Importance of Identity when sharing a common cultural heritage.

Jak organises the Nubian Jak plaques.

Saturday 26 October. 6.10pm. Donald Hinds - Caribbean Migration: It Was Not The Windrush Alone!

Mother to Mother. Tuesday 22 (9.30pm), Wednesday 23-Friday 25 October (2.30pm & 9.30pm)

Imagined conversation between the mother of a killer and the mother of the victim, based on true events surrounding the murder of American Fulbright scholar, Amy Biehl in Gugulethu, South Africa. Presented by South African actress Thembi Mtshali-Jones.

Woody Guthrie: the Long Road to Peekskill. Saturday 26 October. 9.30pm

William Kaufman presents the story of Woody Guthrie's personal transformation from a youthful Oklahoma racist to the ardent anti-racist champion who, along with many others, risked his life holding the line against American fascism during the notorious Peekskill riots of 1949. Conventionally known for his championing of the poor white Dust Bowl migrants, Guthrie also left an extensive body of songs condemning Jim Crow segregation, lynching and race hatred. Most of these songs were never recorded, but they are the legacy of this remarkable journey that eventually brought Guthrie into the fellowship of Lead Belly, Josh White, Sonny Terry, Brownie McGhee and Paul Robeson. The Long Road to Peekskill is both a harrowing and uplifting presentation, showing through the example of Woody Guthrie that racists are not born, but made - and that they can be unmade.

EVENTS

To 31 October. Paul Piercy's On Blackboy Hill Painting

The painting, which depicts a boy who is a descendant of enslaved Africans in Jamaica, is at the museum in until October 31. South Shields Museum and Art Gallery, Ocean Road, South Shields. Full details about it and South Shields involvement in abolition see www.shieldsgazette.com/what-s-on/paul-s-picture-celebrates-black-history-1-6160559

To Tuesday 26 November. The Good Neighbour Audio Tour

Join Uninvited Guests' improbable brass band as it spills out onto the streets, taking you to the places where Battersea's radical past collides with the present. This is a story of two fires separated by 100 years, based on accounts from local people of bravery, kindness and radical thinking. This audio tour is adapted from an original commission performed live by Uninvited Guests as part of *The Good Neighbour* last year. The tour is free to Wednesday 23 October and £5 from 24 October. Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London, SW11. Box Office: 020 7223 2223. boxoffice@bac.org.uk. www.bac.org.uk.

Editorial Comment: For my review of the original tour see my blog posting at

<http://historyandsocialaction.blogspot.co.uk/2012/10/do-go-and-participate-in-good-neighbour.html>

To Friday 31 January 1914. Battersea Town Hall 120th Anniversary

Over the years, the former Battersea Town Hall (now Arts Centre) has had many different uses including as an air-raid shelter, a theatre, and a town hall. To mark the 120th anniversary of the ever-changing building, BAC will be displaying a selection of photographs, documents, and audio from its history. You can also record your own memories of Battersea Town Hall and Battersea Arts Centre. Free, just drop in. Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London, SW11. www.bac.org.uk

Tuesday 22 October. 7pm. Wandsworth Against The Cuts Meeting

Room 4.1 in the PCS Union Headquarters, Clapham Junction, 160 Falcon Road, London, SW11. Main agenda items: Bedroom Tax & Benefit Cuts; Demo against Wandsworth's £43 Million Cuts; supporting local unions fighting the cuts. www.wandsworthagainstcuts.co.uk

Wednesday 23 October. 10am-12noon. North Battersea Community Audit Meeting on Battersea Community Forum

Asda Supermarket, 204 Lavender Hill, SW11. The Audit document can be obtained from Wandsworth Care Alliance: Sarah@wandcareall.org.uk. The meeting will discuss the next steps. **Editorial Comment.** The Audit document is an excellent position statement of where things now stand, and its recommendations are rooted in long established principles that have been argued for in the Borough and elsewhere for

years. In commenting I have argued that community development and organisation and building networks should involve an understanding of local history - this is more important in Wandsworth given so much of the past is being swept away in building 'cathedrals to capitalism', not taking into account the real needs of people, especially those who are struggling on low incomes and in high rent housing.

Wednesday 23 October. 12-6pm. Wandsworth Jobs Fair

Yvonne Carr Centre, Thessally Rd, London, SW8. www.wandsworth.gov.uk/workmatch

Wednesday 23 October. 2pm. Hidden between the pages: British socialist fiction, 1884-1914

Talk by Deborah Mutch. The founders of British socialism recognised the importance of the written word in the promotion of their cause and published prolifically: books, pamphlets, tracts, lectures, sermons and other forms of written publicity. One of the most popular forms of written communication was the weekly or monthly periodical which was published by almost every socialist group or faction. The use and proliferation of these periodicals has been studied and appreciated by historians but the fiction carried by almost all of the periodicals has largely been overlooked. This talk will uncover some of the many forms of fiction used by activists in their desire to create a socialist society. All welcome, the talk is free to attend with a brew after. No need to book. Working Class Movement Library, 51 The Crescent, Salford.

Wednesday 23 October. 6pm. The Indian Army in Europe in the First World War

Talk by Dr David Omissi, author of *Indian Voices of the Great War. Soldiers' Letters, 1914-18*. Roland Levinsky Lecture Theatre 2, Plymouth University (free, and not ticketed). All are welcome. Please contact Dr James Gregory, Department of History and Art History, Plymouth University: james.r.gregory@plymouth.ac.uk, for any queries.

Thursday 24 October. 6.30-90pm. Look How Far We've Come...Exploring African British Histories

A free, inter-generational audio-visual presentation by history consultant Kwaku, in which he focuses on and beyond his work in progress in order to map out more than a millennium of African British histories. Includes a Q&A. Light refreshments provided. FREE. Westminster Reference Library, 35 Saint Martin's Street, London, WC2. To book or for more info: www.lookhowfar.eventbrite.com

Thursday 24 October. 7.30pm. Croydon Tech City Meeting

Matthews Yard, Croydon. For some detail of new initiatives see <http://thecroydoncitizen.com/croydon-tech-city/croydon-techcity-nexus-britains-southern-tech-corridor>; and <http://insidecroydon.com/2013/10/17/future-tech-city-event-at-brit-school-nov-30/#more-15239>

Friday 25 October. 5-7pm. From Martin Luther King To Paul Stephenson in 1963. From Race Riots In Chicago To Cardiff in 1919. How Far Have We Come?

On the eve of the UK premiere of Live The Spirit Big Band's 'A Deferred Dream Or A Dream Come True?' and '1919', the leader of the Chicago jazz band, Ernest Dawkins, will make a presentation on the historical background to the compositions. Dawkins will show how examining the legacy of Martin Luther King's 'I Have A Dream' speech, famously delivered at the 1963 March On Washington For Jobs And Freedom, inspired the 'A Deferred Dream Or A Dream Come True?' composition, and also give the background to the history of the Chicago race riots of 1919, which inspired '1919'. History consultant Kwaku will contrast this with a presentation on the British experience, by covering the Paul Stephenson-led Bristol Bus Boycott and its legacy, and highlighting the Cardiff race riots, one of the many race riots across British cities in 1919. This will be followed by a Q&A session. Harrow Civic Centre 1, Station Road, Harrow, HA1 2XY (Harrow & Wealdstone, 3 minutes walk through station car park; Harrow On The Hill, then buses 140, 182, 186, 258, 340). For more information or to book Harrow BHM events: www.HarrowBHM.eventbrite.com

Saturday 26 October. 11am. Petition Against the Bedroom Tax

Wandsworth Against the Cuts stall outside Asda, Lavender Hill, London, SW11. Part of National Day of Action Against the Bedroom Tax.

Monday 28 October. Start of registration for events for Wandsworth Arts Festival & Fringe May 2014

**Tuesday 29 October. 1-1.45pm. From the Magi to Miss LaLa
Individuals of African Ancestry in Western Art**

Talk by Jan Marsh. Sainsbury Wing Lecture Theatre, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London. Admission free. Figures portrayed in Western art- whether mythical or historical - are predominantly fair-skinned. Yet people of African ancestry have lived in Europe for centuries and appear in paintings. This talk looks at depictions of Black figures in art from the Renaissance to the Modern period, inquiring into their roles as artists' models and portrait sitters.

Tuesday 29 October. 6pm. Railpolitik: bringing railways back to communities by Paul Salveson Book Launch

The York Railway Institute, 22 Queen Street, York, YO24 (less than 5 minutes from the station). Personally signed copies of Paul's book will be available at the reduced price of £14 (normally £14.99). If you can come please email paul@paulsalveson.com or ring/text 07795 008691. You can order the book online at www.lwbooks.co.uk quoting 'railpolitik' on checkout for a discount. www.paulsalveson.org.uk

Tuesday 29 October. 6.30-8pm. Co-operative architecture: interior layouts and architects
Talk. Rochdale Pioneers' Museum, 31 Toad Lane, Rochdale OL12. Free; please book by contacting museums@co-op.ac.uk

Wednesday 30 October. 3-5pm. Radical Studies Network meeting
Topics include the British Left and the execution of the Rosenbergs, and Chartist fiction as response to middle-class social problem novels. All welcome. Working Class Movement Library, Salford. More details at www.radicalstudiesnetwork.wordpress.com

Thursday 31 October. 6.30-9pm. Croydon North Streets Commission Public Meeting for Thornton Heath Residents
Parchmore Methodist Church, 55 Parchmore Rd, Thornton Heath, CR7. See Croydon News below for background

Friday 1 November. Closing Date for Part-Time Co-ordinator for Essential Services Access Network
See details below.

Sunday 3 November. 10am-3pm. BAC Archive Open Day - Meet the Archivists
Do you have a story about the building? This autumn, BAC is launching a digital archive combining collections of Battersea Arts Centre and Battersea Town Hall to create a picture of the building's history. Meet the archivists, take a peek at the collection, and bring along any photographs, documents or stories of the building that you'd like to share. Free - just drop in. Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London, SW11. www.bac.org.uk

Monday 4 November. 8pm. A History of Norbury
Talk by my neighbour David Clark. Streatham Society. "Woodlawns" 16 Leigham Court Road, London, SW16. Contact: Brian Bloice, b.bloice@btinternet.com. The Society has also published a booklet on the history by David.

Thursday 7 - Saturday 23 November. Il Pixel Rosso
An immersive video goggle performance which casts two audience members at a time in the role of main character as they journey through the turbulent and politically rebellious heritage of the Battersea Arts Centre building. Suitable for ages 12+ £5. See website for times. www.bac.org.uk

Thursday 7 November. 12 noon. Pit brow lasses of the Wigan coalfield, (1840s to 1966).
Talk by Alan Davies. Museum of Wigan Life. £2.50 including tea/coffee. To book a place call 01942 828128.

Thursday 7 November. 6.30-8.30pm. Claudia Jones & Amy Ashwood Garvey: Sisters In Civil Rights Activism
Esther Stanford-Xosei will highlight the post-1960s work of the two female activists, followed by Q&A. Light refreshments available. FREE. Harrow Civic Centre 1, Station Road, Harrow. HA1 (Harrow & Wealdstone, 3 minutes walk through station car park; Harrow On The Hill, then buses 140, 182, 186, 258, 340). For more information or to book Harrow BHM events: www.HarrowBHM.eventbrite.com

Thursday 7 November 6.30-8pm. London Studies Network
Birkbeck College, Room 101, 30 Russell Square, London WC1. It is hoped that ideas and plans for events, projects and bids will emerge from this meeting. There will be a shortish initial section to the meeting to recap followed by time for a glass of wine and mingling, before regrouping to discuss plans for the network. All are welcome, so do please pass the message on.

Saturday 9 November 10.30am-1pm. Croydon North Streets Commission Public Meeting for West Croydon Residents
Croydon Voluntary Action, 82 London Rd, CR0 2TB. See Croydon News below for background

Saturday 9 November. 2pm. The NHS - formation and evolution
Talk by Dr Sally Ruane. Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Labour History Society. The Nottingham Mechanics Institute, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham, NG1. info@ndlhs.com. www.ndlhs.com

Thursday 14 November. 6.30-9pm. Croydon North Streets Commission Public Meeting for South Norwood Residents

South Norwood Baptist Church, 2 Oliver Ave, SE25 6TY. See Croydon News below for background

Thursday 14 & Friday 15 November. Edward Rushton and Romantic Liverpool: A Bicentennial Conference

See details below.

Wednesday 27 November. Wandsworth Arts Festival & Fringe network get together

Locations tbc- check www.wandsworthartsfestival.com for details.

Tuesday 19 November onwards. Northern Line Extension Public Inquiry

The Public Inquiry is open to all. If you want to speak formally, please register with the Programme Officer, Graham Groom as soon as possible: grahamgroom@personaassociates.co.uk; 01403219899. Inquiry venue: The Pestana Hotel, 354 Queenstown Rd, London, SW8. More details:

www.persona.uk.com/NLE/index.htm. The process of opposition to the NLE proposal is now co-ordinated through a collective organisation called NLE Community Action (NLECA).

<https://sites.google.com/site/nleCommunityActionSite>. nle.communityaction@gmail.com

Thursday 21 November. 6.30-8pm. Building co-operation: from CWS to Co-operative Group, 150 years of a co-operative giant

Talk. Rochdale Pioneers' Museum, 31 Toad Lane, Rochdale OL12 0NU. Free; please book by contacting museums@co-op.ac.uk

Saturday 23 November. 3.30pm. Launch of Every Cook Can Govern: Documenting the life, impact & works of CLR James

The Long Room, Kia Oval Cricket Stadium, Kennington, London, SE11. Full details at

www.blacknet.co.uk/component/content/article/73-entertainment/whats-on/4706-launch-of-every-cook-can-govern-documenting-the-life-impact-and-works-of-clr-james.html

Saturday 30 November. Future Tech City Tech Education event

Croydon Tech City in association with The BRIT School. See <http://thecroydoncitizen.com/croydon-tech-city/announcement-future-tech-city>

Monday 9 December. 9am. Deadline for submission of applications for Wandsworth Arts Grants for Wandsworth Arts Festival & Fringe 1914 www.wandsworthartsfestival.com for details.

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/arts

Friday 31 January 1914. Closing date for submission of proposals for papers for the Edward Rushton Conference

See below.

WANDSWORTH NEWS

'At risk' Battersea Power Station added to The World Monument Watch list again

www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/10724865.Battersea_Power_Station_added_to_The_World_Monument_Watch_list_again

Violent Dispute outside Battersea Ethiopian church

www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/topstories/10739816.VIDEO_Election_dispute_leads_to_violence_outside_church/?ref=nt

Nearly 1,000 people use Wandsworth Foodbank

www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/10739727.Nearly_1_000_people_use_Wandsworth_Foodbank_within_first_five_months

High Court Decision on Putney Hospital site awaited

www.wandsworthguardian.co.uk/news/10731452.Community_group_anxiously_awaits_High_Court_result_over_Putney_Hospital_site

Campaign for more locally listed buildings in Tooting

www.wandsworthguardian.co.uk/news/10733743.Campaign_for_more_locally_listed_buildings_in_Tooting

Wandsworth's housing crisis

See Labour Councillor Simon Hogg's Blog at <http://simonhoggblogs.com>

CROYDON NEWS

Has the Council Acted Unlawfully over Riesco Sale?

This question is examined by Inside Croydon at <http://insidecroydon.com/2013/10/17/council-risks-legal-action-over-decision-to-sell-riesco-china>. It has also posed the question of how truthful the Council has been? <http://insidecroydon.com/2013/10/16/councils-deputy-continues-to-lie-about-riesco-collection>

Croydon North MP Steve Reed sets up Litter Commission

www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/topstories/10739710.Steve_Reed_MP_sets_up_litter_commission
<http://insidecroydon.com/2013/10/15/council-announces-street-clean-up-just-in-time-for-elections/#more-15261>

Steve Reed discusses why he set the Commission up at <http://insidecroydon.com/2013/10/18/steve-reed-mp-locals-wont-put-up-with-rubbish-service>. Further details about the Commission can be seen at <http://croydonnorthstreetscommission.com>

Dates of Commission public meetings: 31 October, 9 and 14 November. See details in Events section above. Because the Saturday 19 October meeting for Norbury residents was publicised at very short notice, a further meeting will be organised. **Editorial comment:** The Norbury meeting was very well chaired by Commission Chair Nero Ughwujabo, who is Chair of Croydon BME Forum. Everyone had their full opportunity to speak, and a wide range of issues were aired, e.g. the state of the streets, the lack of regeneration initiatives in Norbury, the lack of joined up action by different Council departments, and the positive role that residents associations can play..

Croydon's Elevated MPs

Tom Black reflects on the Tory and Labour re-shuffles involving Gavin Barwell and Steve Reed. <http://thecroydoncitizen.com/politics-society/public-gallery-confederate-states-croydon>. Re-Barwell's elevation see also <http://insidecroydon.com/2013/10/07/parliamentary-promotion-could-be-a-big-stretch-for-barwell>

Croydon's Riot Debate

<http://thecroydoncitizen.com/politics-society/riot-wrong-left-desperately-seeking-insight>

24-26 London Rd History

The latest posting by Kake on the history of the buildings along London Rd is at <http://thecroydoncitizen.com/history/24-26-london-road-early-till-late>

Trustees Needed for Upper Norwood Library

Trustees are wanted for a new social enterprise in Upper Norwood due to take over the running of the Library. <http://insidecroydon.com/2013/10/14/upper-norwood-library-seeks-volunteers-for-new-trust>. See also: <http://insidecroydon.com/2013/10/12/gallery-pops-up-to-the-aid-of-upper-norwood-library>

Croydon's Flawed Consultation on Taberner House <http://insidecroydon.com/2013/10/09/just-53-attend-taberner-house-sham-consultation-sessions> & <http://insidecroydon.com/2013/10/10/council-consultation-they-dont-want-you-to-know-about>. For the Council's response to a Freedom of Information request on the consultation see www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/taberner_house_consultation#incoming-439230

Crystal Palace Development Criticised by GLA Green Member

<http://insidecroydon.com/2013/10/08/boris-showed-outrageous-contempt-for-crystal-palace-locals>. See also: <http://insidecroydon.com/2013/10/06/boris-embraces-500m-beautiful-idea-but-is-short-on-detail>

GENERAL NEWS

Why Black History Month in October?

See Patrick Vernon's discussion at www.voice-online.co.uk/article/origins-black-history-month-britain. There are still plenty of people who do not understand what it is about. See for example the exchanges at www.beexcellenttoeachother.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=9765

Corruption in UK Local Government: The Mounting Risks

www.transparency.org.uk/component/content/article/10-publications/747-corruption-in-uk-local-government-the-mounting-risks

Social History Society Annual Conference: Call for Papers

www.socialhistory.org.uk/annualconference.php

Latest Developments on Newport Chartist Mural

www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/gwentnews/10736462.Newport_Chartist_mural_demolition_39_inevitable_39_now_help_choose_replacement_leader
www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/gwentnews/10738568.Newport_Chartist_vote_too_rigid_says_Labour_councillor
www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/10741093.Why_we_had_destroy_Chartist_mural_Newport_council
www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/gwentnews/10731972.GLC_councillor_s_call_over_Newport_Chartist_Mural/?ref=nt
www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/gwentnews/10735095.Newport_council_chief_wants_a_replica_of_Chartist_mural/?ref=nt

Chartism Art and Parliament

www.parliament.uk/about/art-in-parliament/in-the-picture1/chartism-1838-1858

1839 Birmingham Bull Ring Riots

www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/local-news/birminghams-past-print-1839-street-6184983

Martin Luther King's Honorary Degree at Newcastle University 1967

Footage of the ceremony and an article by Elizabeth Pears can be seen at www.voice-online.co.uk/article/king-newcastle

Isaac Hall - Black African-Caribbean FWW Conscientious Objector

See details on Peace Museum website: www.peacemuseum.org.uk/2013/10/16/black-history-month-object-of-the-fortnight-16102013

PART-TIME CO-ORDINATOR: ESSENTIAL SERVICES ACCESS NETWORK (ESAN)

Could you take over as the new Co-ordinator of the Network? You will be responsible for communication with member organisations, running our new website and helping to expand the Network. You will have an understanding of consumer policy and regulation in at least one of the sectors we cover: currently communications services, energy, financial services, and water. You will also need to have:

- excellent communication and interpersonal skills including good IT skills
- the ability to prioritise your workload, and
- basic administrative ability
- ESAN is a membership body set up to:
- help ensure that essential services meet the wide range of consumers' needs, particularly the needs of consumers in vulnerable circumstances
- facilitate the exchange of information and views between organisations and others concerned with these issues, including the relevant regulators, and
- improve understanding of what is meant by inclusive service in policy development and service provision

ESAN members include consumer bodies and voluntary organisations, who work with regulators to improve outcomes for consumers.

This part-time post will be based on an annual renewable contract, at an annual fee of £10,000. The post-holder will need to be able to work from home or their own office.

Click [here](#) for further information about ESAN's focus and priorities and [here](#) for a full job description.

Applications should take the form of a cv plus a letter explaining why you want the job and why you would do it well. Applications should be emailed to Claire Milne at cbm@antelope.org.uk by 1 November, and any enquiries should also be addressed to her.

Deadline for applications: Friday 1 November

Editorial Note: ESAN used to be the Public Utilities Access Forum of which I was Secretary up until September 2000.

WHAT ARE CHARITIES FOR?'

From newsletter of National Coalition for Independent Action

What are charities for?' was the theme of last Monday's Radio 4 'Analysis' programme. 25 minutes of powerful evidence, including from interviews with us, set out the stall of how state co-option and contracting has sapped the independence of charities and all but extinguished the fire in their belly to fight for social justice. But in the last 5 minutes, the presenter Fran Abrams, rather went off on one, concluding that we were all a bunch of self interested complainers, (and "children of the 60s" in the case of our NCIA spokespeople) motivated by quasi- religious beliefs about virtue.

The only person, apparently, with their sleeves rolled up, ready to help the needy, was one Baroness Stedman- Scott, who openly trumpeted that her organisation - Tomorrow's People - functioned exactly like her corporate private sector mates. Indeed, it was she who, in 2011, proposed that the voluntary sector should be renamed the 'not-for-dividend' sector and the biggest charities should be ranked in an investors' league table according to the value they create.

Tomorrow's People, readers will recall, was the charity that served up a number of its trainees for a spot of unpaid work at the Olympics last year, via a security firm partner called Close Protection UK. The hapless trainees were dumped under London Bridge at 3am in the morning and told to sleep rough. Sounds like a good way to toughen them up and get them ready for the University of Life.

You can hear the repeat of the programme this coming Sunday, the 20th - Radio 4 at 9.30pm - or you can listen to the podcast now - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03cmnzs> . NCIA would like to hear what you thought of it so it can pass the feedback to Fran. Email andy@independentaction.net or post on the facebook site - www.facebook.com/pages/NCIA/281262022621.

www.independentaction.net

EDWARD RUSHTON AND ROMANTIC LIVERPOOL A BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE 14-15 November 2014. University of Liverpool

2014 marks the bicentenary of the death of poet Edward Rushton (1756-1814), Liverpool's most radical voice in the Age of Revolution. Rushton was an uncompromising abolitionist and antislavery fighter, as well as a champion of human rights at large. In a varied career, he also kept a tavern, became a bookseller, edited a newspaper, campaigned against the use of the press gang and, as a blind person himself, he initiated local efforts to support the visually impaired. Liverpool is planning to celebrate his life, writing, and legacy through exhibitions at National Museums Liverpool and the Victoria Gallery & Museum, a theatrical production of a specially-commissioned biographical play at the Everyman/Playhouse, new publications from Liverpool University Press, public lectures, and other events. To coincide with these activities, University of Liverpool, in association with Università degli Studi di Bari "Aldo Moro" (Italy), is hosting a two-day academic conference (14-15 November 2014) which aims to evaluate critically Rushton's life and works, and foster a new sense of the Romantic and radical writing that emerged within his home town during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The conference is centred upon Rushton but seeks to encourage more generally the study of Liverpool during the period of his life, when the town emerged as a place of importance in an international network of trade in objects, ideas and cultures. The conference will seek to expand our understanding of the relationship between cultures of writing, reading, publishing, bookselling, journalism and education in Rushton's Liverpool, and explore the role of imaginative writing in the formation of local, global and civic identities. Confirmed speakers include: Professor John Oldfield (Director of the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation, University of Hull), Professor John Whale (University of Leeds), Professor Lilla Maria Crisafulli (Director of the Centro Interuniversitario per lo Studio del Romanticismo, Università degli Studi di Bologna), and Professor Paul Baines (University of Liverpool).

Call for Papers

Submissions for 20-minute papers from scholars of all disciplines are invited on subjects including:

- the place of eighteenth/ early nineteenth century Liverpool and its writing within cultures of abolition, Romanticism, philanthropy, the maritime, scientific knowledge, radical politics
- Liverpool as capital of the slave trade, and its writing of slavery, abolition and empire; Liverpool's abolitionists; women abolitionists
- Rushton's contemporaries, in Liverpool (including William Roscoe and circle, Felicia Hemans, James Currie, William Shepherd, Hugh Mulligan, the Rathbones, Dr. Jonathan Binns) and beyond
- the transnational (and especially Atlantic) exchange of thought and things, from and to Liverpool during the period
- Liverpool's emerging institutions and societies, and their role within medical practice, education, the commerce of letters, and cultures of reading and collecting
- The politics of genre and form in Romantic Liverpool writing: ballad, eclogue, lyric
- Theatrical culture in Romantic Liverpool
- Music and the fine arts
- Liverpool's Black community and writing
- Liverpool bookselling, journalism, pamphleteering, and radical culture during the period
- Liverpool identities and spaces during the long eighteenth century
- Romantic towns, ports, and provincial networks

- Debating race, gender and class in Romantic Liverpool writing
- Rushton and disability studies: eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century practices and perceptions of disability
- Rushton's legacy and the defence of human rights
- Influences and afterlives of Romanticism in Liverpool

Abstracts of around 250 words, together with a biography, should be sent to the organizers Greg Lynall, Franca Dellarosa and Alex Robinson via edwardrushton@liv.ac.uk, by 31st January 2014. Enquiries are welcome, and should be sent to the same address. A forthcoming conference website will provide information about costs, accommodation, travel and registration.

THE GREAT WAR AT HOME

83rd Anglo-American conference of historians, 3-4 July 2014

Fought across the world, the First World War struck deepest at home. Few neighbourhoods, villages, towns or regions emerged untouched by the global conflict on 1914-18. Next year's Anglo-American conference takes as its theme the impact of the First World War on the locality and local institutions, on the family and social life, and on the memorialisation of war in the built environment and in private life. Co-organised with the British Association of Local History and the Victoria County History, the conference aims to be an international festival of local history seen through the lens of war. The focus is not restricted to the UK, but will cover 'home fronts' across the world, including those of Britain's empire, allies and other combatant nations. The conference is also keen to show-case current research projects relating to the First World War, the teaching of the history of the Great War, and the 1914-18 period in the media, visual arts and museum world then and now. If you are interested in participating in this conference with a panel please send in your proposal by 15 December 2013. Panels should comprise three speakers and a chair, and the proposal must include the title of the panel, synopses of the individual papers and speakers' names and affiliations. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept individual paper submissions, except in special circumstances. The final programme will be published in the new year of 2014. Proposals and all other correspondence should be sent to IHR.Events@sas.ac.uk.