

23rd August 2008

UNESCO International Day for the
Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its
Abolition

Background

2007 saw the bicentenary of the abolition of the Slave Trade throughout the then British Empire. A range of events were undertaken across the country to mark this important part of our history. The Government sought to provide co-ordination and leadership during the bicentenary year, bringing together an informal advisory group to galvanise activity across the country.

To ensure continued commemoration, the Government announced that from 2008 the 23rd of August – UNESCO International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition - would be adopted as the focal date for commemorations.

A range of activity is planned across the country, particularly in port cities (London, Bristol and Liverpool) but also elsewhere. Events are being organised by local authorities, community groups and cultural institutions. The Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund are both funding community-based projects, many of which involve events in August aimed at promoting greater understanding of the slave trade and its legacies. The Heritage Lottery Fund has also funded exhibitions/galleries/museums which continue in 2008, including the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, the 'London, Sugar and Slavery' gallery at the Museum in Docklands, London; the 'Breaking the Chains' Exhibition at the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum in Bristol and the newly refurbished Wilberforce House Museum in Hull.

This guide sets out

- Highlights of activities in museums
- Events in port cities and elsewhere
- A chronological calendar of events
- Contact details for further information on events and activities.

Section 1 - Commemorative events around the 23rd of August

Date	Location	Description	Organisers and contact
7th – 31st July	Brent	Journey to Accompong – Young people from Brent Council's Youth Service <i>LINX</i> are taking an exhibition of photographs they created about the maroons to Jamaica.	Jennie Baptiste (LINX Curator) jenniebphoto@hotmail.com
22nd August 11am	Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, London N17 8NU	Story Interrupted – Unveiling of a work of art for permanent display at the museum. The work commemorates bicentenary of the abolition of the Slave Trade in Britain.	Deborah Hedgecock Tel: 020 8808 8772 Deborah.Hedgecock@haringey.gov.uk
23rd August 2-4pm	Queens Crescent Library Learning Centre, 165 Queens Crescent, London NW5 4HH	Be the change you want to see in the world - London Borough of Camden will be supporting a workshop aimed at people interested in Caribbean History, with a particular focus on African and Caribbean adults.	Camden Council Helen Pollock 020 7974 6354 helen.pollock@camden.gov.uk
23 rd August 11:30am – 4pm	Kenwood House Hampstead Lane, NW3	Free in focus talks, lasting 20 minutes, on the story of Dido Bell and Lord Mansfield and their links to Kenwood House.	Lindsay Douglas, Senior Communications Manager: 020 7973 3293

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Date	Location	Description	Organisers and contact
23 rd August 12 noon	Watershed Media Centre Bristol	Films presented by the Bristol Black Archives Project, including The Elders (2007), directed by Clive Smith.	Paul Stephenson, Chair, Bristol Legacy Commission 0117 922 3574
23 rd August 3pm	St Stephens Church	Commemorative event, led by writers, poets, musicians and politicians, reflecting on Bristol's past.	Paul Stephenson, Chair, Bristol Legacy Commission 0117 922 3574
23 rd August 4pm - late	Malcom X Centre, St.Pauls	Launch of Bristol's African Voices Forum, with members from over 20 nations	Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, African Voices Forum, 0117 328 4326
23 rd August 7pm	Bristol Zoo	Family jazz concert at Bristol Zoo with Dennis Rollins' Badbone and Empirical introduced by the Chair of the Bristol Legacy Commission	Stuart Wood St Georges 0117 929 4929
Until October 2008	British Empire & Commonwealth Museum, Bristol, with the Museum of Bristol	Breaking the chains - £1 million Heritage Lottery Funded exhibition which uses artefacts, film, music and personal testimonies to tell the story of the transatlantic trade in enslaved people and how it was finally broken.	The Learning team Tel: 0117 925 4980 ext. 226 learning@empiremuseum.co.uk

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Date	Location	Description	Organisers and contact
21 st August 6:30	Liverpool Town Hall	Memorial Lecture by author and playwright Lemn Sissay.	Claire Duffy National Museums Liverpool Tel: 0151 478 4548 claire.duffy@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk
23 rd August – 10:45am	Liverpool Parish Church (St Nicholas)	Multi Faith Act of Reflection - A church service for people of all faiths to remember the victims of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and affirm their commitment to human rights and social justice	As above
23 rd August from 12pm	Otterspool Promenade	Activities suitable for families and children, including art and craft workshops, cultural food stalls and handling artefacts from the Transatlantic Slave Trade.	As above
23 rd August 1pm	Liverpool	Libation on the Waterfront - Chief Angus Chukuemeka will lead a libation, joined by community and civic leaders from Merseyside.	As above
23 rd August 1:30pm onwards	Main Marquee	An afternoon of exciting and entertaining music and dance performances showcasing black culture and heritage. Performance element inspired by gallery themes of the new International Slavery Museum	As above

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Date	Location	Description	Organisers and contact
23 rd August 1:30	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln. LN2 1LP	Launch of new Transatlantic Slave Trade Touring Exhibition and Loans Box resource. Resource will tour local community venues and schools from September 2008	Kieran Bussoopun Lincolnshire County Council Tel 01522 550956
23 rd August 10am – 5pm	Royal Naval Museum, Historic Dockyard, Portsmouth	‘Chasing Freedom Trail’ will enable visitors to find out more about the Royal Navy’s role in the slave trade and its suppression	Deborah Hodson Tel No 023 9272 7568 Deborah.Hodson@RoyalNavalMuseum.org
23 rd August	Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery	Opening of a new permanent display about the life of Olaudah Equiano. This permanent display has been planned as one of the legacies of the museums’s HLF-funded Equiano Project.	TBC

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Date	Location	Description	Organisers and contact
23 rd August 12 – 16:30	National Maritime Museum	The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich will be marking the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition with a day of activities and events which explore cultural legacies from the history of the transatlantic slavery, using music as a way to represent cultural resistance. See below for specific sessions	Sarah Lockwood 020 8312 6798 slockwood@nmm.ac.uk
		Handling sessions: learn about the history of the transatlantic slavery and resistance to enslavement.	As above
		Tallawa Theatre Company: workshops and performances with Britain's foremost Black British Theatre Company exploring the history of resistance through the arts	As above
		Performing pasts: dramatic presentations inspired by young people inspired by the Atlantic Worlds gallery	As above
23 rd August 12 – 16:30		Rebirth of Cool - from Jazz to hip-hop: Practical music workshops for young musicians exploring the musical history of resistance to transatlantic slavery	Sarah Lockwood 020 8312 6798 slockwood@nmm.ac.uk
		Sea of Voices: Join in this participatory singing event as part of the 'Sing the Nation' campaign. Explore the significance of song as a powerful medium in the history of resistance	As above
23 rd August 16:30 – 20:30		Symposium and evening music event: Guest speakers exploring the cultural spectrum of new forms of artistic and cultural expression in the African Diaspora. Evening includes musical interpretation with Jazz trumpeter Abram Wilson	As above

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Date	Location	Description	Organisers and contact
26 July: 5.00pm	Museum in Docklands, No1 Warehouse London E14 4AL	The Book of Negroes: Join critically acclaimed author Lawrence Hill, the winner of this years Commonwealth Best Book Award for The Book of Negroes, in conversation with Sara Wajid at the Museum in Docklands. The book traces links the between slavery in the Southern States of the U.S., the path of resistance and the attempted creation of a safe haven for previously enslaved people in Sierra Leone. The author will be reading extracts from his award winning book.	Lucie Amos Head of Community & Audience Development Museum of London group lamos@museumoflondon.org.uk Carol Seigel, Adult Learning Officer Museum in Docklands 020 7001 9805 carolseigel@museumindocklands.org.uk
31 July: 12.30pm & 2.30pm & 3.30pm	Museum in Docklands, No1 Warehouse London E14 4AL	Africa abroad: Discover the story of Africa, a young boy who escaped to find freedom in a pleasure garden in eighteenth century London. The piece was devised & written by Gabrielle Bourn and it is performed with the kind permission of the London Borough of Lambeth Archives Department.	Rebecca Gilmore rgilmore@museumindocklands.org.uk
1 August 12:30, 2:30, 3:30	Museum in Docklands, No1 Warehouse London E14 4AL	Hidden stories, Unheard Voices: Inspiring stories of dreams and freedom from the time of slavery performed by author and storyteller Sandra Agard.	As above

Museum in Docklands – London contd.

Date	Location	Description	Organisers and contact
1 August 2008-07-11 12 noon – 4pm	Museum in Docklands, Hertsmere Road, London E14 4AL	<p>African Remembrance Day This day is set aside for healing, reflection and renewal of the African Family. The programme will include music from Suchara, a Libation, prayers, drumming, poetry and talks.</p> <p>A 3 minutes silence will be observed at 3 pm.</p> <p>This is a partnership event with African Remembrance Day</p>	<p>Carol Seigel, Adult Learning Officer Museum in Docklands 020 7001 9805 carolseigel@museumindocklands.org.uk</p> <p>Rebecca Gilmore rgilmore@museumindocklands.org.uk</p>
9 th August: 12.30am & 2.30pm & 3.30pm	Museum in Docklands, No1 Warehouse London E14 4AL	<p>Storytelling: the man with a ship on his head Joseph Johnson was a black merchant sailor in the 19th century who became a popular London street entertainer. Find out what his life might have been like and how it changed, then listen to some of his wonderful stories.</p>	<p>Rebecca Gilmore rgilmore@museumindocklands.org.uk</p>
23 August 2008 10.30 – 4pm	Museum in Docklands, Hertsmere Road, London E14 4AL	<p>Remembering Enslavement to Windrush: Hosted by Arthur Torrington and Burt Caesar this packed event will feature special guest poets John Agard and Adisa, Windrush veteran Sam King, World War II serviceman Allan Wilmot, Nyanome African Drummers & Dancers and more.</p> <p>This memorial event to mark both the UNESCO international Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and the 60th anniversary of the arrival of the Windrush is a partnership event with the Windrush Foundation.</p>	<p>Carol Seigel, Adult Learning Officer Museum in Docklands 020 7001 9805 carolseigel@museumindocklands.org.uk</p> <p>Rebecca Gilmore rgilmore@museumindocklands.org.uk</p>

Museum in Docklands – London contd.

Date	Location	Description	Organisers and contact
27 August 12.30pm & 2.30pm & 3.30pm	Museum in Docklands, Hertsmere Road, London E14 4AL	Running 1000 miles to freedom Discover the inspiring story of Ellen Craft, the talk of Victorian London. Through Ellen's audacity and ingenuity she overcame many dangers to become a celebrated abolitionist.	Rebecca Gilmore rgilmore@museumindocklands.org.uk

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Date	Location	Description	Organisers and contact
17 th August 1pm – 4pm	International Slavery Museum <i>Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AQ</i>	Clay Creations – Make your own clay sculptures based upon West African culture and the use of Uli Designs	Richard Benjamin Tel: 0151 478 4574
18 th August 2pm and 3pm		The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole – A performance about the Life of Mary Seacole	As above
19 th August 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30pm		Tales from Africa – Interactive storytelling sessions	As above
20 th August 1pm – 4pm		Carnival Crafts – Afternoon of arts and crafts activities inspired by carnival	As above
20 th August 1pm-4pm		Handling Collection – Learn more about the history of Transatlantic slavery with an ISM demonstrator	As above

International Slavery Museum – Liverpool contd...

Date	Location	Description	Organisers and contact
21 st August 1pm – 4pm	International Slavery Museum <i>Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AQ</i>	African Batik – Hands on workshop on the art of African Batik Printing	Richard Benjamin Tel: 0151 478 4574
22 nd and 25 th August 1:30 2:30 and 3:30pm		African Beats – Afternoon of African drumming and tribal dance	As above
23 rd and 24 th August 2pm and 3pm		Being Black in Britain – a new and thought provoking performance begins to explore the Black British Experience	As above
23 rd and 24 th August 1pm - 4pm		African Woodcarving – in the Life in West Africa Gallery	As above
25 th August 1pm – 4pm		African Arts and Crafts – Find out more about African art and make your own African Mask	As above

Section 2 – Ongoing projects in 2008

Location	Organisation	Description	Contact
Peterborough	African Caribbean Forum	Beyond the Bicentennial - a project looking at those involved in the abolition movement in Britain, the Caribbean and Africa during the 50 years up to the manumission of slaves in the British Empire in 1838.	Jasmine Bennett, Secretary, Millennium Centre millcentre@tiscali.co.uk Tel:01733 562663 Web address: www.beyondthebi.com
Liverpool	River Niger Arts,	The sounds of Slavery – will research, record and develop a performance-related programme around the musical legacy of (and relating to) slavery - taking specific (but not exclusive) interest in the City of Liverpool.	Olu Olaseinde, Project Manager olaseindeolu@hotmail.com Tel :0151 708 8059 Mob: 07957 602 045
Birmingham	Black History Foundation,	Black Plaques - will research and collate identified historical places of interest that capture the BME presence and journey in the Midlands. This project will create a web-based map identifying these places and a short synopsis of their significance as well as photos or video of the site.	Daniella Genas, Project Development Officer Tel: 0121 212 9911 Email: daniella@blackhistoryfoundation.com

Section 2 – Ongoing projects in 2008 contd...

Location	Organisation	Description	Contact
Bristol	Bristol Legacy Commission	Launch of the Bristol Legacy Commission, a unique independent community led body charged with leading improvements over three years to opportunities for BME communities in education, health and wellbeing, and cultural representation.	Paul Stephenson, Chair, Bristol Legacy Commission c/o Bristol City Council 0117 922 3574.
Southwark	Word of Mouth Media Productions	Celia - A project by this Southwark group to stage a play based on the story of Celia, a slave, at the Cochrane Theatre. The play will tell her tragic story, commemorating the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade.	Gregg Hutchings Big Lottery Fund 020 7211 3791
Brent	African Caribbean Emancipation Trust	Bicentenary 2008 - An event in Brent to commemorate the bicentenary anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade for the local community. The event will feature historical talks and artistic workshops in order to raise awareness in the local community.	As above
London	Black Environment Network	Our Home, Our History - A project to investigate how the contribution of black ethnic minority communities is reflected in historic properties linked to the transatlantic triangular slave trade in London. Three property visits and evaluations will be carried out, which will be followed by a report identifying opportunities to present a more inclusive history.	As above

Section 2 – Ongoing projects in 2008 contd...

Location	Organisation	Description	Contact
Southwark	Dog Kennel Hill School	Dog Kennel Hill Nature Trail - A project to celebrate the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade and to encourage community cohesion through development of their nature trail and construction of a 'Freedom' statue by this Southwark primary school.	As above
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers	The Face of Coal - The project will allow the group to explore how the issues linked to the 2007 Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave trade relate to the North East's mining community. Two artists will work across a range of different art forms to explore this.	As above
	Nia Kuumba	Going Back in Time: A Journey of the Slave Trade In line with the commemoration of the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade, the project will fund a series of educational trips for children and their parents to visit locations identified with slavery.	As above
	PATAAC	Birth of a New Day - The project will involve young people in African story telling sessions to develop a dance drama production based on the abolition of slave trade in the UK which will be performed to the public.	As above

Section 2 – Ongoing projects in 2008 contd...

<i>Location</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Kirklees	Education 2000	Performing Arts - A multi-cultural performing arts project which will culminate in a production to be staged at the Hudawi Centre. Activities will include dance, drama and singing all undertaken by local people and a professional artist. The project will incorporate aspects of African-Caribbean aspects of the slave trade.	As above
Camden	Institute of Black Culture Media and Sport CIC (IBCMAS)	Last Bicentenary Pilgrimage - A project by this group in Camden to take people from the local community on a two day family learning trip to Liverpool to mark the end of the Bicentenary of abolition of the slave trade with a goodbye ceremonial event.	As above

Section 3 – Chronological diary of Events

Date	City	Event
26 th July	London	The Book of Negroes. Conversation and readings with Lawrence Hill – Museum in Docklands.
31 st July	London	Africa Abroad: Piece written by Gabrielle Bourn – Museum in Docklands.
1 st August	London	Hidden Stories, Unheard Voices: Stories performed by author and storyteller Sandra Agard – Museum in Docklands
1 st August	London	African Remembrance Day – Museum in Docklands
9 th August	London	Storytelling: the man with a ship on his head – Museum in Docklands
17 th August	Liverpool	Clay Creations – International Slavery Museum
18 th August	Liverpool	The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole – International Slavery Museum
19 th August	Liverpool	Tales from Africa - International Slavery Museum
20 th August	Liverpool	Carnival Crafts - International Slavery Museum
20 th August	Liverpool	Handling Collection - International Slavery Museum
21 st August	Liverpool	Memorial Lecture by Lemn Sissay – Liverpool Town Hall
21 st August	Liverpool	African Batik workshop - International Slavery Museum

Section 3 – Chronological diary of Events contd...

Date	City	Event
22nd August	London	Story Interrupted – new work of art unveiled at Bruce Castle Museum, London.
22nd August	Liverpool	African Beats – International Slavery Museum
23 rd August	Bristol	Films presented by the Bristol Black Archives project – Watershed Media Centre
23 rd August	Bristol	Commemorative event – St Stephen's Church
23 rd August	Bristol	Launch of Bristol's African Voices Forum – Colston Hall
23 rd August	Bristol	Family Concert, featuring Dennis Rollins' Badbone – Bristol Zoo
23rd August	Liverpool	Multi Faith Act of Reflection – Liverpool Parish Church
23rd August	Liverpool	Family activity day, Otterspool Promenade
23rd August	Liverpool	Libation on the Waterfront
23rd August	Liverpool	Afternoon of music and dance – Main Marquee
23 rd and 24 th August	Liverpool	Being Black in Britain – a new and thought provoking performance begins to explore the Black British Experience International Slavery Museum
23 rd and 24 th August	Liverpool	African Woodcarving – in the Life in West Africa Gallery, International Slavery Museum
23rd August	London	Remembering Enslavement to Windrush – Museum in Docklands
23rd August	London	Be the change you want to see in the World – Queens Crescent Library

Section 3 – Chronological diary of Events contd...

<i>Date</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Event</i>
23 rd August	London	Day of events at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich using music as a way to represent cultural resistance
23 rd August	Lincoln	Launch of the new Transatlantic Slave Trade Touring Exhibition – the Collection, Danes Terrace
23 rd August	Portsmouth	Chasing Freedom Trail – Royal Naval Museum
25 th August 1pm – 4pm	Liverpool	African Arts and Crafts – International Slavery Museum
27 th August 12:30pm & 2:30pm & 3:30pm	London	Running 1000 miles to freedom – Museum in Docklands