



# NEWSLETTER

News from the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre  
and Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust

Issue 10 September 2009

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW CENTRE



**In August, the Centre and the Education Trust moved to new, bigger and better premises in the Sackville Street Building on the University's City Centre Campus.**

The new accommodation has provided us with twice the library space and a larger study area for our visitors. We will be able to use the increased space to bring resources out of storage and to accommodate the exciting collection acquired last year from the former CRE.

We are now located in the Sackville Street Building, next to the MMU Business School, just minutes away from Piccadilly Bus and Train Stations. You can find us on floor J using the Granby Row entrance. The Centre is still open to the public as well as students from 9.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday; and you will find access to the same services:

- **A library containing over 8,000 resources**
- **Book box loans for schools and community groups**
- **A specialist local history collection containing exclusive and unique primary source materials**

We welcome anyone interested in studying or researching race and ethnicity, and can now host much larger groups. In addition, we also have a new meeting and teaching room which users can book for their own meetings or events.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!**

## Celebrate our 10th anniversary with us

On October 7th, we are holding our 10th anniversary party in the new library from 5pm - 8pm. Food and entertainment will be provided. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by telephoning 0161 275 2920 or by emailing [rrarchive@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:rrarchive@manchester.ac.uk).

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!**

CILIP Local Studies Group, North West Branch are running a day school:

# Local and Family History in the Modern World

Tuesday 13th October, 2009

10 am - 4.30pm

Lancaster Record Office, Bow Lane, Preston

The day is aimed both at library professionals and those interested in local studies.

The day includes expert speakers: Alan Crosby (local historian and author), Christine Bradley (local history librarian), Diana Winterbotham (former local history librarian) and Jacqui Crosby (deputy archivist, Lancashire Record Office) and the subjects covered are varied: local and family history as it is practised today, basic enquiry techniques, maps from Gough to OS, the nature of archives and manuscript collections. There will also be a tour behind the scenes at the record office.

The cost of the day school is only £20.00 ( lunch included). To reserve your place, or to find out more information, please contact Maureen Burns, Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre, Central Library, Old Street, Ashton-Under-Lyne, Tel: 0161 342 4242.

**\*\*NEW\*\***

## KING POPIEL AND THE MOUSE ARMY

King Popiel and the Mouse Army is a traditional Polish folk-story.

Greedy King Popiel and his queen think only of themselves. They don't care that their people are starving. They don't realise that the people are angry enough to organise a rebellion together with the town mice! The mice, formed into an army, chase King Popiel to a tower surrounded by a lake.

The King thinks he will be safe there, but no: the mouse army crosses the lake and eats the King and Queen, leaving nothing but two pairs of expensive shoes.

This is the latest in our international folk-tale books made to celebrate and share the creativity of children in our city. The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust works with Manchester schools, helping pupils retell and illustrate folk-stories. We have their work professionally designed and published. The project to create *King Popiel and the Mouse Army* linked year 2 children at Holy Name RC Primary School in Moss Side and St Catherine's RC Primary in Didsbury in many fun-filled and creative sessions. The book can be purchased from our centre.

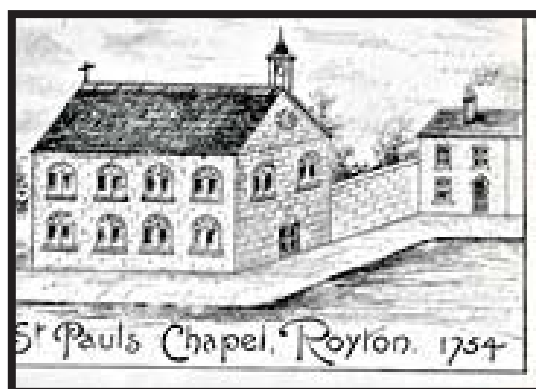


# Manchester's Hidden Treasures:

## How parish registers illuminate Manchester's hidden Black history by David Govier

Parish registers include a wealth of information on baptisms, marriages and burials, in some cases as far back as the 1500s. Manchester Archives holds the parish registers of the Anglican Diocese of Manchester - these include the registers of over 300 Church of England churches in Greater Manchester. This is the story of Juba Thomas Royton, a black man living in Royton in the 1760s.

The first reference to Juba Thomas Royton in the registers is his baptism at St Paul's church in Royton, Oldham, in 1760. He is described as a Negro 'belonging to' Thomas Percival, Esquire. Percival was a wealthy linen manufacturer whose great-grandfather had bought Royton Hall in 1662. It was common for wealthy families to employ black servants in the eighteenth century. These servants were often bought as slaves in Africa and transported to South America, the Caribbean or North America to work on sugar, tobacco and cotton plantations, and then brought back to England by plantation owners. Some were paid for their work as domestic servants in Britain and some were not.



Thomas Percival could have had contact with two points of the so-called 'triangular trade' of slavery. The raw cotton his mills required was grown using slave labour in the Americas, while his finished product could have been traded for enslaved Africans on the West coast of Africa. In 1788 an account of the trade of Manchester with Africa, prepared for the Privy Council, explains that the value of goods annually supplied from Manchester and its neighbourhood for Africa employed about 18 thousand men, women and children - this figure represents almost two-fifths of the city's then population.

Juba next appears in banns (intentions to marry) at St Mary, Oldham, in 1765. The banns register gives Juba's occupation as a 'waiting man', in other words a domestic servant. While Juba signs in his own handwriting, his new wife Betty marks her signature with a crude cross. Signing with a simple mark like this was very common at this time as there were no schools for the poor.

In August of the next year, Juba and Betty's first child is baptised as Thomas Percival Royton. Another son, John, is baptised in February 1769. A third son is baptised in April 1771. In this register short addresses are given so we learn that Juba's address is Poultry-House, Royton.

In September 1771 Juba dies but there is no age recorded in the burial register so we will never know for sure when - or where - he was born. To the right of his entry is a faint '23' in pencil - this could be a later addition to the register, taken from Juba's headstone. If this is the case then he was approximately 12 when he was baptised in Royton in 1760. Many of the enslaved were children when they were taken from Africa to the Caribbean.

The parish registers give us snapshots of Juba's life, showing us that black people have been an active part of life in Greater Manchester for at least two hundred years before the 'Windrush generation' began to arrive in the 1950s.

**To find out more about parish registers and archives relating to ethnic minority communities held at Manchester Archives and Local Studies please visit: <http://www.manchester.gov.uk/libraries/arl>.**

## 'Mandela, Manchester' Poetry Anthology, Launch Event, 2009

On July 6th the *Mandela, Manchester* anthology of school children's poems was launched in the Great Hall of Manchester Town Hall.



The poetry anthology was published jointly by the City Council and the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust, and features poems about Manchester through the eyes and imaginations of the young. Mandela, as a great world statesman, a struggler for freedom and national liberation and an upholder of writing as a means of critical consciousness, provided a powerful inspiration for those young poets. The Chief Executive Officer of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, Sibongile Mkhabela, who provided the anthology's introduction, wrote of Manchester's young poets:

"Through this anthology, the City of Manchester is also storming into the corridors of literacy excellence through its children."

Children from a dozen Manchester schools read their poems at the launch, and copies were presented to the poets by the Lord Mayor of the city, Councillor Alison Firth, and the First Secretary of the South African High Commission, Mr. Bulelani Mandla.

The evening concluded with a film tribute to the poets by the Manchester poet Lemn Sissay, who at the time was touring South Africa.

**Copies of *Mandela, Manchester* can be bought for £8.00 (school discount available) and can be purchased from our centre.**

### Contact Details

**The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre and Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust are open 9.30am - 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.**

#### Address:

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Centre website: [www.manchester.ac.uk/racerelations](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/racerelations)

Trust website: [www.racearchive.org.uk](http://www.racearchive.org.uk)

The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust is a registered charity. Its registration number is 1089257.