



# NEWSLETTER

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

Issue 8 October 2008

## Black History Month 2008

The Trust and Centre will be marking Black History Month by launching new publications and support activities for schools and community groups in Manchester.

**Mix-d:uk book launch @ Urbis** in conjunction with the Multiple Heritage Project

**Assembly and classroom talks** on Black Heroes from our WP Officer Sam Kalubowila

**Making History Calendar 2009** featuring artists from Black Arts Alliance

**Take Your Place in History Open Day @ Museum of Science and Industry** - see next page

## Book Boxes - loan resources for Black History Month



### What do you mean you've never heard of the Untold Histories Project?

We're not sure where our marketing has been going wrong but time after time we are surprised to find out that people are unaware that they can borrow boxes of material from the Resource Centre on behalf of their schools, youth clubs or community groups. The project, which has been going since 2000, is run jointly by the Centre and the Trust and was created from the desire to get our wonderful resources out into the community.

Some boxes are specifically aimed at helping teachers address national curriculum subjects, for example: *Britain since the 1930's*, *Britain Trade and Empire (1750-1900)*, *Critical Citizens* and *World Studies and Multi Faith* resources but these boxes have also been borrowed by non school groups.

The *Biographies* boxes were created to celebrate the achievements of pioneers and heroes from many cultures and in many fields of endeavour. These can be used to inform and inspire the young of all communities.

The *African Caribbean Culture* and *Refugee Experience* boxes are often borrowed in Black History Month or Refugee week, but are of course just as informative at other times of the year. Our *New to English and Early Years* boxes are designed to aid ESOL teaching and very young readers respectively.

We have been delighted to see how all these resources can be put to good use in very different settings and the *Fiction* and *Folk Tales* boxes have proven entertaining for children and young adults alike.

The collections do not simply contain books but some also have teaching packs, audio cassettes, posters and one even has a drum! Our outreach coordinator, Jackie Ould, who has over 20 years

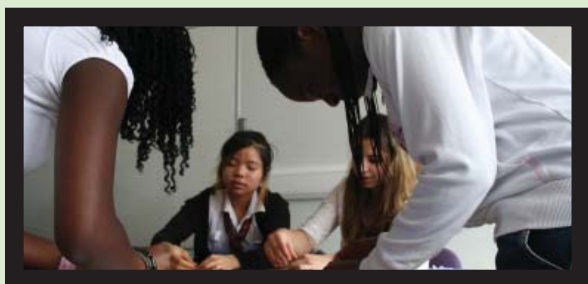
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experience of teaching in schools, has created teaching notes for some of the boxes, which outline how the materials can be used in the classroom.

You can either borrow from a particular themed box as suggested or you may want to be more creative and put together your own box (up to 15 items) from a mixture of the resources. The box then can be borrowed for half a term (6 weeks) and amazingly it's still FREE of charge to all Manchester organisations. All we ask is that you show us proof that you belong to a particular school or community group and that you sign a membership agreement. If returning the box is a problem, we will even collect the box after the loan period for a small fee of £5.

So, if you want to give your students (of all ages) the opportunity to learn more about African, Asian and Caribbean contributions and achievements or about issues facing refugees, why not borrow an Untold History Box?

To see the full list of our boxes (including complete content details) please take a look on our website at [www.racearchive.org.uk/projects/untold.htm](http://www.racearchive.org.uk/projects/untold.htm) While you are there, you may even find out other things you didn't know about our organisation!



## Another successful "Your Future, Your Choice"

In June, we held two more successful HE day conferences. The events, for 150 BME Year 10s, were enjoyed by all. Attendees commented:

*"After this event I think that I am more confident and good at team work and finally got to know about myself - my hero inside me."*

*"It was really interesting to visit and learn the things that I didn't know about the University and life here - I appreciate the organisers of this event and am thankful to them!"*

## "Take Your Place In History" Open Day

The Centre and Trust will be co-hosting an open day with the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) on Saturday, November 8th at MOSI, from 10am to 4pm. The event aims to encourage people to share their experiences of living and working in Manchester so come and tell us your story. Visitors will also be able to have a look at samples from MOSI and the Centre's collections. We particularly encourage members of BME communities to attend as the day is an extension of the city's Black History Month celebrations.

**For more information contact the Centre.**

## Am I Safe Yet?

### Women asylum seekers in Manchester tell their stories

In this book, nine women who came to Britain to seek asylum from violence and mistreatment tell their personal stories. These moving stories of loss and humiliation refute the popular idea that asylum seekers come to this country to find an easier life. The book was developed by Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST) and is published by the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust. **Order at [www.racearchive.org.uk](http://www.racearchive.org.uk)**

# Map your history for future generations with Dr. Laurence Brown

Mapping migrant cultures in Manchester 1880-2000

Oral history has played a major role in recovering the experience of migrant groups and transforming our understanding of immigration.

Manchester has several unique archives of immigrant testimony including the Manchester Jewish Museum's collection covering

Eastern European migration in the late nineteenth century and the

**Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre's collection of interviews with Caribbean and South Asian immigrants.**



This project is funded by the Diasporas, Migration and Identities programme of the Arts and Humanities Research Council ([www.diasporas.ac.uk](http://www.diasporas.ac.uk)) and uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to map how the cultural landscapes of different migrant groups were constructed in Manchester between 1880 and the present.

Through GIS we can construct and analyse multiple layers of maps, exploring the relationships between:

- (1) 'Significant cultural sites' - including religious institutions, home associations and other spaces remembered by migrants as defining their identity
- (2) 'Itineraries of the everyday' - the daily routes of work, leisure and consumption, such as grocery shops or African hairdressers
- (3) 'Historical events' - sites of interaction, conflict or cultural practice within the diaspora and/or the wider community revealed at specific moments in time
- (4) 'Socio-economic data' - drawn from census studies, newspapers and oral testimonies on material conditions.

On our website ([www.migrationhistories.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.migrationhistories.manchester.ac.uk)), we are aiming to make these maps as widely accessible as possible to schools, community groups and the general public. These on-line interactive maps could serve as teaching resources or the basis for future oral history projects. Maps provide us with ways of seeing and understanding migration that are very different from the visions offered in novels, history textbooks or recorded interviews.

**Our initial research has focused on Caribbean and Jewish migration to Manchester, but we are looking to expand this to other movements and groups. If you are interested in becoming involved in the project, please contact us at:**

**[migrationhistories@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:migrationhistories@manchester.ac.uk).**

## Celebrating another Black hero

### Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Born in London in 1875, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor had an African father and an English mother. His musical talent was identified very early and was nurtured by family friends. He entered the Royal College of Music in London at the age of 15, soon discovering a talent for composition. Coleridge-Taylor's most famous piece of music was *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast* (based on the poem by H.W.Longfellow) and he became one of the most celebrated composers of his day, composing a large quantity of chamber-music and many songs.

Coleridge-Taylor developed a strong consciousness of his African heritage, mainly through his connection with African Americans, including poet Paul Dunbar, and he was a delegate at the 1<sup>st</sup> Pan-African Congress held in London in 1900. Coleridge-Taylor married an Englishwoman called Jessie Walmisley in spite of opposition from her family, and they had two children who also went on to have careers in music. Coleridge-Taylor died of pneumonia in 1912 aged just 37 and was 'universally mourned'.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor is the subject of the next book in our series of Black biographies for children. The text and illustrations have been created by children at Rolls Crescent Primary School in a school project run by the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust in the summer term. The book is at design stage and will be available in the next few months.



## New Somalia resource

### Somalia: Culture, Traditions, People and their Heritage

This new resource explores aspects of the cultural heritage of British Somalis. Somali students at Whalley Range 11-18 High School worked with the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre over nearly a year. We investigated typical cultural traditions, objects that have cultural resonance, and some famous Somali people. These findings have been collated together so that we can share and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Somali people in Britain. Production of the resource was made possible by a grant from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

**Copies are available from the Centre.**

## How to contact us:

**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)