

CONNECTING HISTORIES

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welcome

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One City - many stories
making known some of the experiences and histories of Birmingham's different communities.

This site is in progress and will be updated regularly.



Connecting Histories Website

www.connectinghistories.org.uk

This sheet is designed to give an overview of what you will find on the *Connecting Histories* website. The site is still in development and will be regularly updated with new content and additions.

Above the main title bar on the homepage you will find general information on the **Project** and **Contributors** to the site as well as **Useful Links** to other websites, which have relevant information and cover similar subjects. In **News** you can view all of the *Connecting Histories* newsletters. As the site will eventually include a vast amount of material you will find the **Sitemap** particularly useful in helping you find resources on different subjects.

Collections

Collections includes a summary of the 8 archives that are being catalogued as part of the project: *Vanley Burke, Derek Bishton and Ten.8, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, Indian Workers Association, George Hallett, Trade Union Resource Centre and Paul Mackney, Banner Theatre, and the Charles Parker Archive.*

Copies of the detailed catalogues of each archive will be available here as they are completed. By following the link to **More Collections** you will find summaries and information about other historical collections in Central Library and elsewhere, such as the archive of the *Church Missionary Society* at Birmingham University Library's Special Collections department.

Learning

In **Learning** you will find five sets of learning resources produced by the project and based on material from Birmingham Central Library and City Archives. The five units are: *How to Research Black History, Campaigning for Social Justice, Migration and Settlement, Performing Resistance* and *Archives as Social Knowledge*. These learning units are all designed to introduce a range of sources, explore various aspects of Birmingham's history which have been under-researched in the past and hopefully inspire people to undertake their own research in the archives. They also include lists of useful archive, published and online resources. Two of the learning units *How to Research Black History* and *Campaigning for Social Justice* were launched in September 2006 and the others will follow over the next few months.



Learning: 'How to Research Black History - Sources', web menu showing extracts of some of the documents used in this learning unit

Exhibitions

In this part of the website you can view online exhibitions on a wide range of themes. **Photographic Exhibitions** showcases the work of local photographers and includes bodies of work such as *Musik Kinda Sweet* by Birmingham photographer and film-maker Pogus Caesar, a series of photographic portraits by Robert Taylor produced for the book 'Portraits of Black Achievement: composing successful careers' by Jacqui MacDonald, and images of festivals in the city such as *Diwali*, *St Patrick's Day Parade* and *Lok Mela*. **City Stories** uses documents and photographs to illuminate little known aspects of the city's history such as the early history of black performers in Birmingham. **City Trails** will feature historical walks around Birmingham, including a *Joseph Sturge Antislavery Trail* and a *Jewish History Trail* which will be available in December 2006. Download the route and walk around the city to discover the part the Jewish community played in the history of Birmingham's theatres and cinemas, or where the greatest Antislavery gatherings took place. **Community Exhibitions** provides an opportunity for community history projects to have their work featured.



Photographic Exhibitions, clockwise from top left: Pogus Caesar (OOM Gallery), Ghazala Saddique, Terry Lo, and Sangeeta Redgrave

Noticeboard

Check **What's On** to find out about local history talks, exhibitions and events in the city, or get actively involved by helping one of the featured **Community Projects**. The projects cover a range of themes and communities, from documenting Sikh or Irish heritage to recording the experiences of people of mixed race in Birmingham.



Collections: extracts from the eight catalogued archives (named overleaf)

Guidance

This is for people who may want to work in archives and heritage, undertake research using archives or run their own community history project. **How to Work in Heritage** points you in the direction of information and courses for a potential career in the sector. **How to do Research** includes a series of short guides, such as how to use an archive office. **How to do a Project** features a number of brief introductory leaflets on topics such as planning an oral history project. In **How to Create an Archive** we look at two examples, the *Vanley Burke Archive* and a collection of papers relating to the family of a Jewish woman, *Constance Davis*. We also provide links to useful advice on how to care for documents and photographs.

Discussion

The **Discussion** board will go live by 2007 and is an opportunity to engage in conversation, pose questions or seek information and advice from others about aspects of the histories of Birmingham and its communities.

If you want to use the website to publicise an event or a project, or contribute an exhibition on your community's history, then please contact us.

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