

**Black History in Birmingham...
want to know more?**



Abstracts of documents from 'Researching Black History' e-learning package

Official Launch of:

The Vanley Burke Archive

& 'Researching Black History'
& our first e-learning package

at **The Black History Research Day**
Handsworth Library

23 September 2006 (12- 6pm)

The event promises to be a day of information and inspiration packed with talks, workshops and tips on where to go and what to look for when researching aspects of black history, with a practical focus on using resources available in Birmingham City Archives.



Dance, Winson Green Community Centre, 1970s. Photo: Vanley Burke [MS 2192]



African Liberation Day, Handsworth, 1981. Photo: Vanley Burke [MS 2192]

Author and black family historian **Paul Crooks** will be talking on the day; as will many other prominent and experienced academics, researchers and community and heritage professionals.

The celebrated documentary photographer **Vanley Burke** will be introducing his archive of photographs and information that documents the presence of the African Caribbean community in Birmingham over the last 40 years.

There will also be entertainment, food, poetry, Afrikan children's story tellers, as well as children's history activities and much more....



Photo: Vanley Burke, 1990. "I had many delicious meals made by this man...His Fish Tea is the best." From 'Five Years - A Life Time' [MS 2192]

For information on this event, contact our Access Support Officer, Adisa Folarin on 0121 464 1608 or adisa.folarin@birmingham.gov.uk

CONNECTING HISTORIES

Exhibitions...Events...Projects...

Event: Join the trail...



Abstracts from the Sturge city trail. Photos: Brigitte Winsor

Joseph Sturge Antislavery Heritage Trail

to be taken across the city centre
by Andy Green of *Connecting Histories*
on **Friday 8 September 2006 - 10.30am**

This is part of an **English Heritage** events weekend in Birmingham. Places are limited so you will need to book in advance. For more details on this and other history walks visit the website:
www.heritageopendays.org

Project: Guess who is coming to dinner?

The Inheritance Project exists to explore and celebrate the experiences of people of mixed heritage through education and research, and act as a focus and a platform for the mixed race community to advocate on their own behalf and highlight pertinent issues. By exploring the origins of people of mixed parentage, the project aims to chart their journey through history and help them define their identity in the present. The project works with people of mixed heritage, parents, wider family members, carers, teachers, social workers, the prison service, health workers and the wider community.

The project would like to invite people who were in mixed race relationships during the 1950s and 1960s, and the children of these unions to be part of the oral history project called 'Guess who is coming to dinner?' Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, a new website www.inheritanceproject.org will be launched soon.

To get involved or to find out more about the project phone 0121 440 6333 or 0775 111 5404, or email inheritanceproject@yahoo.co.uk

Project: St Patrick's Day Memories



Sheltering from a bitter wind before the parade, 2006. Photo: Brigitte Winsor

The **St Patrick's Festival** is putting together a book and exhibition about **Memories of St Patrick's Day in Birmingham** from as far back as we can go right up until the present day.

1950s "Shamrock used to arrive from Ireland days before and we wore it to school pinned to a ribbon. It was all shrivelled up, but so was everyone else's!"

1960s "Walkers were urged to obey county marshals and to keep in formation and not to smoke on parade nor wave to people on the side"

Quotes from 'Making Our Mark' by Carl Chinn

The parade, as we know it today started in Birmingham in 1952 - minutes before any other St Patrick's Day parade in an English city. It went from strength to strength in the 50s and 60s until it was stopped in the 1970s after the Birmingham pub bombings. In the mid-1990s, the St Patrick's Day Parade once more returned as a part of Birmingham's St Patrick's Day celebrations and is now the third biggest St Patrick's Day festival anywhere in the world and a major date in the calendar of Irish people in the Midlands.

To learn more about the project or to take part with your own memories, call Gudrun on 0121 373 2747 or email stpatrickshistory@word-works.org



St Patrick's Day Parade, Digbeth, 2006. Photo: Brigitte Winsor

CONNECTING HISTORIES

Featured Collection



Postcard invite to the formal opening of the Trade Union Resource Centre at Victoria Works, on 16 March 1983 [MS 2009]

Paul Mackney and TURC

Paul Mackney is a trade union leader, political activist and social campaigner who lived and worked in Birmingham from the mid 1970s to the early 1990s. Mackney's desire for social justice and his drive for action to achieve this are reflected in his collection, as are his links with various elements of the local labour movement. Through the Birmingham Trades Council, Mackney became involved with TURC [Trade Union Resource Centre] and its sister organisation YETRU [Youth Employment and Training Research Unit]. The collections for Mackney and TURC/YETRU reflect this inter-relationship. Considered together they offer an invaluable glimpse of developments within, and activities of, Birmingham's labour movement during a period of profound social, economic and political change.



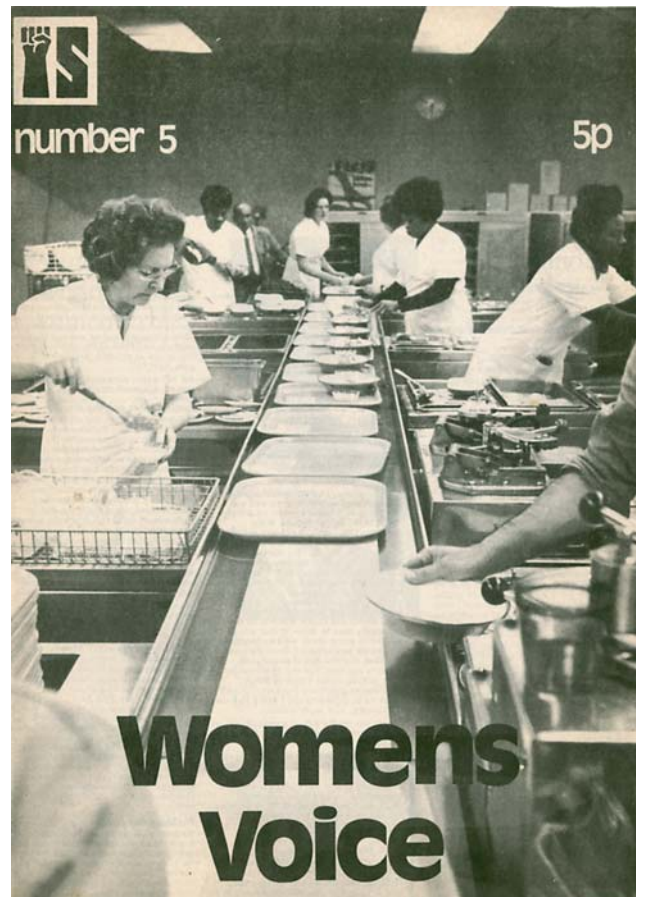
Single produced by TURC 'To the Fight', 1984 [MS 2009]



Paul Mackney (centre) with Police Inspector. From the Banner Theatre Archive [MS 1611]

These two collections focus on issues associated with working life. This is widely defined and extends to un/employment, rights, issues of discrimination, privatisation, poverty, trade unionism, environment, international and cultural issues, health, media, youth, sexuality, gender, national and local government policies.

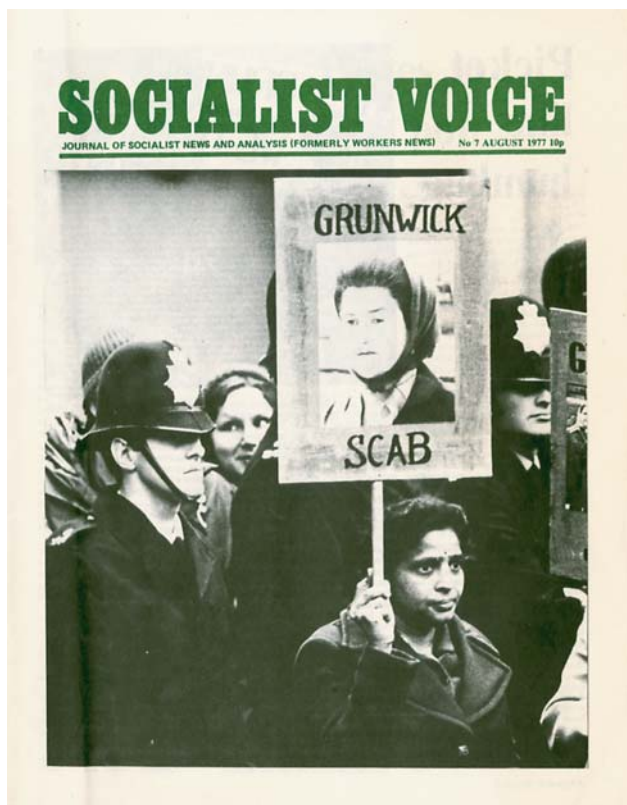
These papers will appeal to a range of researchers and will also be used in the *Connecting Histories* e-learning resource "*Performing Resistance*" to go online in 2007. They are a mixture of personal papers and working copies of official documents received or created by Mackney through his involvement with a range of organisations and campaigns, and also includes general campaign and political leaflets, newsletters and pamphlets.



One issue from a selection of 'Women's Voice' newsletters [MS 1591]

Paul Mackney and TURC continued

The TURC papers provide a fascinating insight into the practicalities of establishing and maintaining an independent resource facility for trades unionists and campaigners. The collection covers industrial relations activities, both in support of union negotiations with employers, and during strikes and other industrial disputes. As well as support for specific disputes, more general campaigns were supported, such as lobbying for improved health and safety legislation, protests against the privatisation of public sector services and anti-sexism and anti-racism in training schemes and in the workplace.



Journal 'Socialist Voice', August 1977 [MS 1591]

Elements of the labour movement were mobilised during the 1984 Miners' Strike and again in the aftermath of the 1985 Handsworth disturbances. The collections reflect this, as well as a concern with women's issues and the interests of minority groups. Campaigns against the Prevention of Terrorism Act and restrictive immigration and asylum legislation are also recorded. Both collections include information from a large number of local campaigning and community organisations which illustrate these activities, as can be seen in the examples reproduced here.



Selection of ephemera from the collections

Such concerns with social justice were not restricted to Britain. TURC developed links with trades unionists and campaigners around the world. For instance, the Centre offered support and solidarity to the Mayor of Bluewater in Nicaragua. It also exposed investments in, and other support to, Apartheid South Africa by West Midland companies.

The collections [MS 1591 & MS 2009] are available at Birmingham City Archives on Floor 7 of Central Library [0121 303 4217]



Newsletter 'Birmingham Broadside', April 1977 [MS 1591]

 **CONNECTING HISTORIES**

www.connectinghistories.org.uk - **COMING SOON!**

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