

Press release: 9.08.2022

The Bishop of London, colonialism and the transatlantic slave trade - history re-examined

Fulham Palace Trust is committed to addressing the issues of power, racism and inequality in the history we tell in our museum, and to be alert to any cultural bias that might exist within the organisation.

Fulham Palace Trust will seek to:

- Engage and involve the widest possible community in researching and writing the stories that we tell
- Ensure the diversity of the people involved in decision making
- Ensure that our site and online presence are welcoming and accessible to all

Fulham Palace Trust is pleased to announce that it is working with the Parents Action and Resource Centre (PARC) based in Ealing on a project to examine the stories that are told in the museum.

PARC is an independent community organisation that works to address the inequalities that currently exist in the education system. Amongst other initiatives, PARC operates the Queen Nzinga Saturday club for children aged 7 to 13.

PARC directors visited the museum on 19 April 2022 to discuss the museum displays with Dr Cassandra Goptar, who has conducted extensive research for a number of organisations into historical individuals and institutions associated with the transatlantic slave trade. The exhibition content was then discussed with the children and families at PARC's Saturday club.

Changes to the museum displays and the guided tour script were made over summer 2022 and now include further information about the role of the Bishop of London as the 'colonial diocesan', and the exploitative nature of

plant collecting in North America and the Caribbean.

In addition to this project Fulham Palace Trust is working with four organisations including PARC to develop a temporary exhibition for launch in October 2022. The organisations will be working with Adisa, a spoken word poet, finding inspiration from stories of physical and spiritual resistance in the Caribbean and North America during the height of the transatlantic slave trade, which ultimately led to the ending of the slave trade and slavery itself in the British Empire. We hope that the exhibition will encourage visitors to think about how history is told and by whom, something that PARC covers with children and families as part of its Saturday club sessions.

Founder and director of PARC, Ade Banjoko 'We are delighted to collaborate with the Fulham Palace Trust on this project. It directly ties into the work we are currently doing to include voices that have been historically underrepresented in museums and other institutions.'

Sian Harrington, Chief Executive of Fulham Palace Trust 'Fulham Palace Trust is firmly part of the UK museums community which is determined to challenge the standard narrative of British history. PARC does such inspirational work with children and families, and we are so pleased that they are happy to engage with us on such an important subject. We look forward to continuing to work with PARC and other groups as co-producers of new work for display at the Palace.'

The projects were made possible by an Arts Council England funded, Museum Development London grant and an Arts Council England grant.

-ENDS-

Notes for editors

For further information please contact:

Erin Brudi, marketing executive
erin.brudi@fulhampalace.org

For high res images please email erin.brudi@fulhampalace.org

About Fulham Palace

Fulham Palace is the historic home of the Bishops of London. For centuries, the Palace and surrounding estate served as a country retreat for the bishops and their families before becoming the bishop's permanent residence in the early 20th

century. The last bishop moved out in 1973, and the Palace and 13 acre botanical garden are now managed by the Fulham Palace Trust, an independent charity dedicated to engaging people and providing an insight, through the stories of the Bishops of London, into over 1,300 years of English history, and to become one of Great Britain's most loved and inspiring historic houses and gardens.

How to get there:

Main entrance: the end of Bishop's Avenue by gates to Bishop's Park

Bus: 14, 74, 220, 414, 430

Tube: Putney Bridge (from the station follow the Thames Path west along the river through Bishop's Park, midway through the park is the Bishop's Avenue gate, exit through gate and immediately right into Fulham Palace grounds)

Parking: metered parking on Bishops Avenue