

14 October 2022

For immediate release

Black history month 2022 - Fulham Palace launches a series of events and activities running into 2023

Fulham Palace Trust is an independent charity set up to restore the Palace house and garden and to provide public access to this ancient site on the banks of the River Thames. From 704 to 1973 the Palace was the home of the Bishop of London, a key figure in the Church of England.

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 aims 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

Working towards these aims, the Trust has commissioned Adisa, a spoken word artist, to work with schools and groups to interpret the stories around the Bishop of London's historic links to colonialism and transatlantic slavery.

Adisa has found inspiration in the often-overlooked 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.

Adisa is using this theme to run workshops with the following schools and groups: the Parents Action and Resource Centre (PARC) based in Ealing; All Saints Primary school, Fulham; St Paul's Church, West Hackney; Fulham Cross Academy; and Fulham Palace home education group.

Creative responses from the workshops will be shared with the wider local community and with the museums and heritage sector – through a film, an exhibition, and a series of blogs, talks, and events.

We hope that the activities and exhibition will encourage visitors to think about how history is told and by whom.

The first event in our programme will be taking place at the Palace from **11.00 - 15.00 on Tuesday 25 October** as part of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham's black history month events programme.

Participants will be able to learn about the hidden forms of resistance used by enslaved Africans during the transatlantic slave trade. Activities will include a mask making workshop, a poetry workshop led by Adisa, and an immersive tour. The event is suitable for all ages.

The next event will be an online talk by Professor David Olusoga at **18.00 - 19.00 on Friday 11 November 2022** hosted jointly by Fulham Palace Trust and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. Professor Olusoga will be picking up on some of his key areas of interest: how we can all get involved in finding about our local history; the importance of teaching black history as part of the national curriculum; and supporting teachers and pupils to get involved by highlighting resources that they can use. He will then be turning to a new artist-led community project at Fulham Palace, focussing on the historic role of the Bishop of London in relation to colonialism and transatlantic slavery. Finally, as we approach Remembrance Sunday, Professor Olusoga will touch on the role of Black people in both World Wars.

Further events and the exhibition launch date will be announced in due course. Check our events page for further events.

<https://www.fulhampalace.org/whats-on/events/>

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This current project was made possible by an Arts Council England grant.

About Fulham Palace

Purchased in AD 704, for centuries the Palace and surrounding estate served as a country retreat for the Bishop of London. It later became the Bishop's permanent residence in the early 20th century until the last Bishop moved out in 1973. The Palace and 13-acre botanic garden are now managed by Fulham Palace Trust, an independent charity dedicated to the ongoing preservation, restoration and interpretation of this historically important site.

The small museum on site tells both the long history of the site stretching back to Mesolithic times, and the story of the Bishop of London's role in British history. There is a very small collection of objects including archaeological material found on site, paintings and social history material. The Bishop of London's archive of documents, letters and books is held at Lambeth Palace Library, five miles down the river Thames.

Current opening hours:

Botanic garden	dawn to 18.30
Walled garden	10.15 – 16.15
Café	9.30 – 17.00
Shop	10.30-17.00
Museum and historic rooms	10.30-17.00

For further information and high res images please contact:

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About Parents Action and Resource Centre (PARC)

Parents Action and Resource Centre (PARC) is an independent community organisation based at Northolt Village Community Centre, Ealing Road, Northolt UB5 6AD. It aims to address inequalities in education by supporting

parents and empowering communities. It carries out a number of different activities including: Queen Nzinga Saturday School Club for children aged 7 to 13, Coffee Saturdays for parents and educators to network and share best practice; exclusions advocacy training and clinic; inclusive curriculum development support and education advice. Email: info@parentsactionresource.org.uk. <http://parentsactionresource.org.uk>

Adisa

Adisa is a London-based poet and a winner of 'New Performance Poet of the year'. He is an educationalist and workshop facilitator with aims to make poetry and performance accessible. Adisa is on a mission to take poetry to the people wherever he finds them; taking his words from place to place and promoting the value and impact of powerful performance which can both entertain an audience and take great delight in words and self-expression.

All Saints School

All Saints School is a one-form entry primary school with a full-time nursery and 7 classes. It is situated in south Fulham, close to Fulham Palace, surrounded by trees and allotments, creating a tranquil atmosphere for an inner city school. A very strong sense of community runs throughout the school. The school is voluntary aided and has close links with its parish church.

St Paul's West Hackney

St Paul's is a Church of England community made up of formal membership of 100 people, together with a whole host of others who are connected with the church on a less regular and more informal basis. The church is home to a number of partners who deliver activities and support to the local community: The Posh Club, North London Action for the Homeless, Bags of Taste and an over-50s dance group. The church grounds are home to a well-established weekly farmers' market.

Home education group

The Fulham Palace home education group is a diverse group of children from across West London co-ordinated by Nelly Ali, senior teaching fellow in childhood studies and children's rights at UCL.

Fulham Cross Academy

Fulham Cross Academy was previously a boys' only school and is now transitioning into a mixed school and now has female students in years 7, 8, 9 and sixth form. It is a STEM specialist school encouraging all students to pursue an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. It caters for young people from the ages of 11 – 19.