

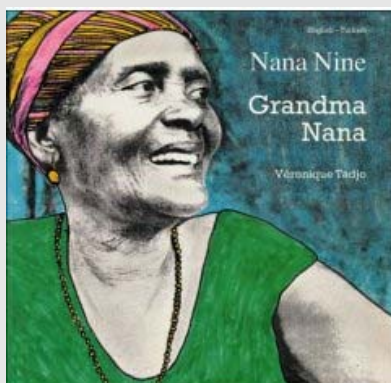
## AN EXCITING NEW LOAN RESOURCE: QUEENIE'S SUITCASE

A fascinating new loan box will soon be available. It is about former Islington resident, Queenie Gascoigne, whose life spanned seven decades including both World Wars. Queenie was a well-known Islington personality. She was often to be seen in Chapel Market and the streets she loved around the Angel carrying Percy, her parrot headed umbrella, wearing an authentic 1930s dress and one of her rakish angled hats. *Queenie's Suitcase* tells the story of her life through pictures, letters and ephemera all kindly donated by her trustees. It records her vivid memoirs of life in Islington including tales of music halls and tram journeys through the borough.

We also have Queenie's oral accounts recorded on four CDs shortly before she died. These give vivid insights into her life and her memories growing up in the borough. This will be edited to one CD and made available for loan.



This collection can be used to support work on local history, World War II and for creative writing projects. One of the library staff will be available to make visits with the Suitcase to talk about the resources when we trial it in the spring term. If you want to be involved please contact us.



## CHILDREN'S BOOK GROUP: WHY NOT COME ALONG DURING NATIONAL YEAR OF READING? NEXT MEETING 13TH FEBRUARY 2008

**Val Rutt, from Yerbury School, a regular attendee of the group writes:** It is satisfying when you find just the

right book for your class or an individual child. You know the kind of thing; the book that hooks them into the topic, the book that gets a child excited about reading, the book that helps you to explore a particular event or situation.

Sometimes you know what the right book is but, with more than 12,000 new children's titles published in the UK each year, how do you keep up with what's out there?

I can recommend coming along to the half-termly meetings of The Children's Book Group for Teachers. You will be made welcome and have the opportunity to look at, discuss and borrow from a range of books selected by the library on a theme, a range of ages, cover fiction and non-fiction, all will be good quality reads and I guarantee that you will find something that inspires you.

The theme of our last book group meeting was novels and picture books set in Africa.

## USING ARTEFACTS WITH A SECONDARY ENGLISH CLASS

I work for CEA as part of the NRF project. My role is Partnership teacher in English KS4 which involves helping to improve the GCSE exam results in English amongst borderline C/D students.

One of the main schools that I am working with this year is Central Foundation. Last week I found myself with a challenge: teaching *An Inspector Calls* as coursework to a difficult year 11 group. I knew that I needed to make the play accessible and engaging and I needed to do it quickly as time in year 11 is limited.

I decided to use the Barnsbury library as my inspiration (and to take to take advantage of the fantastic props and costumes).

The challenge of a play like *An Inspector Calls* is that the students can find the issues and characters in the play difficult to relate to – they don't have a frame of reference for the upper class characters and the politics of 1912.

The library has a vast selection of props and costumes that span the decades. I borrowed costumes from the early 1900s for the characters in the play, so that the students could get into character and chose props to create the appropriate setting.

The lesson was a success. The props and costumes really helped to create the right atmosphere and feel for the play. The students were very engaged and got a sense of what life would have been like for a family like the Birlings. This made the play come alive for the students and helped them get into character.

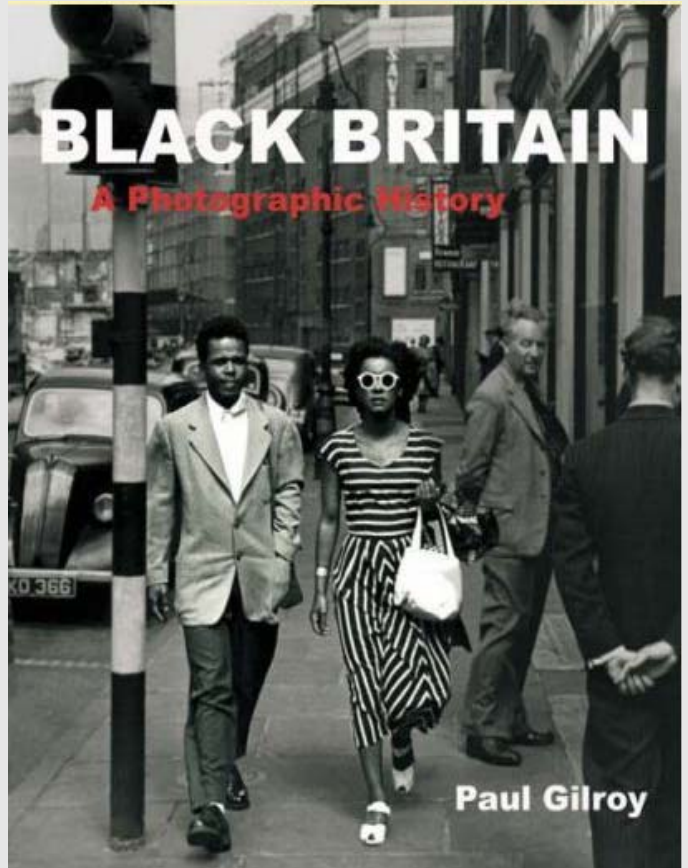
It is such a privilege to be able to use such excellent and creative resources. I have never experienced a library like it and it really enhanced the students' learning experience.

Nina Rosenzweig

## BLACK HISTORY

Through the year we send out our resources relating to black history – be that on histories and cultures of African countries, the Caribbean, the Americas or, of course, communities in the UK. Requests from schools are heaviest for the celebration of Black History Month and this year, almost all schools asked for resources for their focus in October. Over 1500 items were issued. Many of these linked to the abolition of slavery and themes of freedom and liberation. Stories, science and the arts were not forgotten.

It is often a challenge to find material on UK Black History at the right levels for key stages one and two but with exhibitions and activities in London, Bristol and Liverpool generating resources that we were able to add to our existing stock, we hope that everyone received useful and suitable books, packs and artefacts.



Paul Gilroy's *Black Britain: A Photographic History*  
(Now available for loan)

## JOURNEYS OF CHANGE

The Education Library was invited to work in partnership with the Imperial War Museum and Croydon Museum on the Journeys of Change project: an opportunity to explore the contribution to WWII of the service men and women from Commonwealth countries.

In Islington we worked with two groups of students: Year 8 pupils from Highbury Grove and students from Kokayi Supplementary School. Both groups had opportunities to visit the Museum and handle unique objects from the collection, including original letters, diaries and artefacts. They interviewed Tex Marsh, a WWII veteran who gave them an (uncensored!) insight into his motives for joining up. Outreach sessions were delivered in the schools to facilitate the students' own research and creative responses. These sessions were led by Steve Martin from our TEXT Writers in Schools Project and Marilyn Lehmann, the Islington project co-ordinator.



## IT COULD BE VERSE: JIM DUNK'S IDEAS FOR MAKING SCHOOLS POETRY FRIENDLY

The TEXT: Writers in Schools Project, in celebration of the National Year of Reading and of Michael Rosen's year as Children's Laureate, is offering schools a chance to become 'poetry friendly'. Schools can book a poet to be in residence and to 'turn the whole school on' to the writing, reading, performing and sharing of poetry.

The poet will provide 'poetry surgeries', where pupils will be able to bring along their poems or ideas for poems and be helped to get started or to re-draft their work. Assemblies will be given over to the reading of pupils' work or the favourite work of professional poets. Schools will be introduced to some interesting characters like Rhyming Ronnie or Connie Couplet who will challenge pupils to find rhymes for their word of the day or complete a poetry couplet. There will be a 'poetry postbox' where children can deposit poems they have written at home and which can be read in assemblies or 'delivered' to classes around the school. In fact, the school will feel like one gigantic poetry book, with poems about all aspects of school life and activity.

Staff will be catered for, too, with a workshop on writing poetry which will give them a chance to be creative and also give them lots of ideas for teaching poetry. If your school is in the Cripplegate area, you can get funding through your Cripplegate allocation. If you are not in the area, TEXT can help you to identify funding.

Contact Jim Dunk, TEXT: Writers in Schools: 07903 044935 e-mail: jimdunk101@hotmail.com



Tex Marsh

The students produced written work, PowerPoint and video presentations, which were exhibited at the Imperial War Museum and Islington's Central Library.

As a result of this collaboration we have been able to extend our collection by adding posters and images showing the contribution of Commonwealth and allied countries. These will be loaned as part of our VE/VJ Day boxes. Feedback from users of these loan boxes has suggested that Islington students are interested in how the war affected other parts of the world, especially the countries from which their own families had come. We hope that the new images will help to answer their questions. We also have copies of the wonderful veteran portraits made by photographer Corinne Silva who worked with the students from Croydon. These are still on display at the Imperial War Museum.

## NEWS

### COSTUMES

The costume collection is forever growing. We have recently been collecting more 20th Century men's costumes and supporting photos. Thank you to all who lent photographs of themselves or family members wearing typical fashions of each decade. They have been copied and are ready to borrow. We are still looking for more photos from the 1980s and 1990s showing popular trends (fashions and haircuts) so if anyone would like to add any please leave them at the library and I shall return them as soon as they have been scanned. The ones that embarrass you the most are the ones we want!

You should start to notice more information attached to the costumes. As we catalogue we are trying to do this but it will take time.

eloise.moody.cea@islington.gov.uk



*Which member of the Library staff's mum is this in 1955?*

### Free books: Update

**Bookstart** includes 3 free books distributed at 8/9 months (by health visitors), 18/24 months (by children's centres, Bookstart Plus) and 36 months (by children's centres, nursery or school nurseries, My Little Treasure Box).

**Booktime** for all children in Reception class, piloted last year in Islington and now a national programme. This year's book is *Funnybones* by Allan Ahlberg and there is an accompanying pack of materials for teachers together with a copy of the big book version.

**Booked up** for all students in Year 7 who were able to make a choice from a selection of titles. In Islington the distribution of this has been done by the secondary school librarians.

**Book ahead:** more information shortly

### International Primary Curriculum

When schools are requesting resources please could they make clear on the request form that it is for an IPC topic as the requirements are different.

**Over 40000 items issued.** This term has been one of our busiest ever in the library service with an extremely high level of borrowing. This is partly due to the increase in number of schools using the service.

### CARNIVAL

We want to research and collect some new artefacts to revitalize our "Carnival" resources. We are looking for costumes, pictures, music, maps and masks from carnival in London and around the world. If you have any suggestions or would like to get involved, please email: lauren.moroney.cea@islington.gov.uk

Katie O'Connor, our full time library assistant, has left to do a primary PGCE course and is currently enjoying life from the other side in Hanover School. We welcome Bonnie Maguire as her replacement.

## Islington Education Library Service

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