

Welcome to Time Travel Tuesday: Community History in the Making – sharing our heritage from Bruce Castle Museum & Archive.

Tuesday 31 March 2020

Today is **Time Travel Tuesday** so, considering the significant situation and critical events we are currently all part of, we're stepping back in time to look at some of our Archive collections created by, and about, the various groups and organisations in the borough, capturing pivotal historical moments.

Our remit at Bruce Castle Museum and Archive is to collect material that reflects the Borough of Haringey – past, present and future. Community archives - that is the archives created by the local community groups, voluntary and grass-roots organisations themselves - are an incredibly important part of our collections. They allow voices to be heard that are often suppressed or ignored; they document a sense of community spirit and passion; but also they offer the opportunity for those directly involved to give first-hand accounts of what happened.

Grass-roots groups and community organisations such as Tenants and Residents Associations, community centres, cultural and civic societies, and welfare and legal support groups are often at the forefront of what is happening locally through meetings, events and protests. Their archives tell the story of the people and events happening at any given point.

Today, with the Covid-19 crisis unfolding, we have seen some amazing community responses already – rallying forces from the community to help people over 70 or those self-isolating get food and medicine, or just making sure people have social contact during this very difficult time.



Flyer posted around Stroud Green area, offering support and assistance to those self-isolating.

© Stroud Green Covid Mutual Aid Group, March 2020.

Below we will look at some of the community archives that we hold at Bruce Castle, that demonstrate pivotal historical moments and a community response to a cause or event, including [Haringey Vanguard](#) (BAME LGBTQ+ archive), [Haringey First World War Peace Forum's](#) project about the conscientious objectors and some of the Haringey protests and campaigns supporting the [Anti-apartheid movement](#). As today is the 30th anniversary of the protest marches against the introduction of the Community Charge (known as Poll Tax) on the March 31st 1990, we are looking at the recently-deposited archive of the [Haringey Anti Poll Tax Union \(HAPTU\)](#). Their collection includes posters, newsletters, cuttings, guides and support information which was produced by the various anti-Poll Tax groups around Haringey, as part of their campaigns and protests against the introduction of the charge.



Poster advertising the national demonstration on 31 March 1990 and Pay No Poll Tax posters giving advice in English, Greek and Turkish for Haringey residents (1989-1990).

[From the collections of Bruce Castle Museum & Archive - © Haringey Anti Poll Tax Union](#)

The demonstration brought thousands of people to London from outside the city and mobilised many within the London boroughs. As Dave Morris, a founding member of *Tottenham Against The Poll Tax*, noted (writing 30 years on, in March 2020) Haringey had a large contingent attending the demonstration:

“On March 31st, over 200 Haringey residents met up at Turnpike Lane tube to travel together to join over 250,000 people marching through Central London calling for mass non-payment. It was a carnival atmosphere. However, confrontations between police and protestors turned Downing Street, Trafalgar Sq and many of the surrounding streets into a battleground for hours. Undeterred, the anti-poll tax movement gained world-wide coverage and went on from strength to strength. The prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, resigned on November 22nd 1990, with many commentators saying that the anti-poll tax movement had fatally damaged her reputation. And on March 22nd 1991, the day

before the planned anniversary demonstration in central London, the poll tax was scrapped with 18.7 million people having refused to pay it.”

HAPTU was central not only to coordinating the protests, but was a central line of support to the 50,000 Haringey adults who refused to register, and the 97,000 who eventually refused to pay. They helped those who had been taken to court over non-payment of the Poll Tax, and assisted with legal advice about fines, bailiffs etc. HAPTU worked with other boroughs to coordinate a London-wide initiative and engaged with the Haringey residents through regular public meetings, weekly street stalls and door-to-door leafleting. This archive is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all the groups and members, as well as a record of a historical point in time, which impacted local, national and international politics.



Various anti-Poll Tax newsletters from Haringey groups from Wood Green, South Hornsey, Tottenham and NALGO (1989-1991).

From the collections of Bruce Castle Museum & Archive - © Haringey Anti Poll Tax Union

Another recent addition to our collections is the archive of [Haringey First World War Peace Forum \(HFWWPF\)](#) project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Funded. In 2014 HFWWPF started researching the lives of men living in what is now the London Borough of Haringey, who resisted conscription during the First World War. The aim of the project was to share the stories of a part of London which saw the highest proportion of conscientious objectors in Britain between 1916 and 1918. The archive was deposited at Bruce Castle after the project was completed and wound up in 2019. It holds the research about the local conscientious objectors, as well as material created through the running of the project such as meeting minutes, programme and funding reports and promotional material, newspaper cuttings, photographs and flyers. The archive is a testament to a successful heritage project as well as a memorial to the conscientious objectors and their stories.

NO MORE WAR

Haringey's First World War
Conscientious Objectors



Hundreds of Haringey men stood up to say NO MORE WAR in 1916 by choosing to become Conscientious Objectors and refusing to fight in the First World War.

NO MORE WAR tells an alternative tale of bravery and courage from a forgotten part of Haringey's history.

Bruce Castle Museum
Ladbroke Lane, Tottenham, N17 9NA. Tel: 020 8858 8772.
Email: museum.services@haringey.gov.uk

Nearest Tube: **Seven Sisters**
Buses: Ladbroke Lane / Wood Green / Tottenham Bus: 243 / 923
Nearest Station: **Bruce Grove**

Exhibition opening times
Wednesday - Sunday 1pm - 3pm
Until 30th December 2015

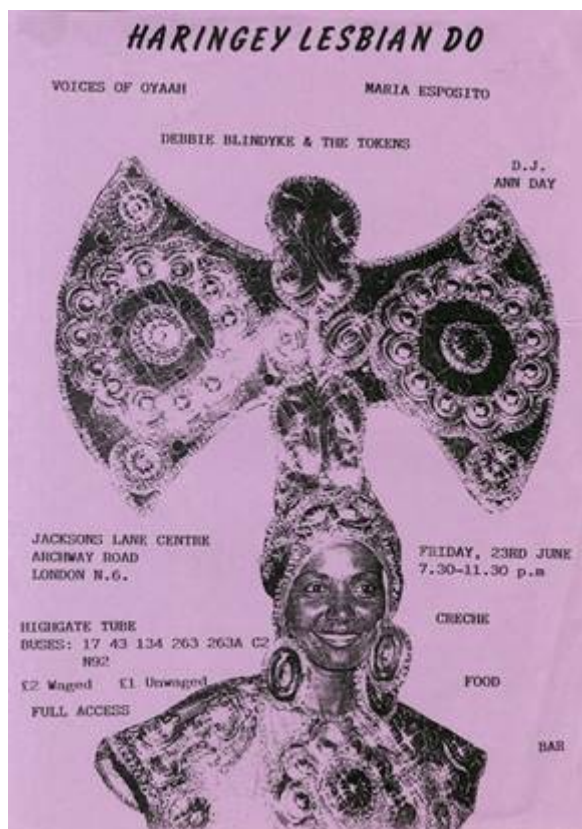




Poster advertising the exhibition about Haringey's WWI conscientious objectors at Bruce Castle in 2015.

[From the collections of Bruce Castle Museum & Archive](#)

[Haringey Vanguard](#) is a project we are currently working on, funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and in partnership with London Metropolitan Archives, to actively collect archives celebrating Haringey's Black, Minority and Ethnic LGBTQ+ communities. This archive collection holds material donated by individuals telling their personal journeys, as well as material that we have collected at Bruce Castle generated by the council relating to BAME LGBTQ+ issues. Posters and flyers show how the groups celebrated their diversity and found support through attending events, clubs and venues together. There were also a variety of support groups set up offering advice for those experiencing discrimination or wanting guidance on issues not found through mainstream channels.



Poster for the 'Haringey Lesbian Do' at Jackson's Lane Centre (date unknown).

[From the collections of Bruce Castle Museum & Archive](#)

Again, like all community archives, there are both very personal stories and experiences held in the archive material, along with national and international issues and historical events, such as the protests against Lord Halsbury's bill preventing local authorities 'promoting homosexuality' (known as Section 28), and the Act's eventual abolishment. This project is recording over 20 oral histories from people who were part of the communities, and at the heart of the protests against Section 28 in Haringey.



[Badge from the collections of Bruce Castle Museum & Archive](#)

Campaigns supporting the ANC's call through the Anti-Apartheid Movement for the end of apartheid South Africa and the release of Nelson Mandela also feature in our collections. The ANC is obviously not a community organisation, but the Anti-Apartheid Movement through localised campaigns within Haringey, and

throughout the UK supporting the causes and putting on events, certainly did stem from grass-roots and community groups.



Badge and posters calling people to demonstrate for sanctions against apartheid South Africa, attend the South Africa Women's Day Festival and to Free Nelson Mandela.

From the collections of Bruce Castle Museum & Archive

Community archives are the collective memory of these groups and organisations, illustrating the services they provided and the campaigns they fought, often at key historical moments.

They are of immense importance when it comes to showing Haringey's cultural heritage and social history at any given point in time.

With this in mind, I would like to finish this post with a call-out to any Haringey-based community, grass roots and voluntary organisations working to help and support people through the Covid-19 crisis. When we are through this eventually, when things have settled and we start looking back at what we have been through, we will look to the archives to find out what happened and how we responded as a society.

So label and save those digital files, pop copies of your flyers and posters in your bottom drawer, and when you get a moment in the future, please do send them over to us at Bruce Castle. We'd be very happy to have them.

For those wanting to think about creating a community archive for a group you represent, here are some tips:

1. Label everything and everyone, especially note the dates (day, month and year) and people's names and their roles in the organisation.
2. Digital files are as important as hardcopies, so label them too!
3. Put together a brief history or timeline of the group/organisation, noting key events, campaigns and people.
4. Ask original members, staff etc. to give oral histories or accounts of setting up the group and the motivations behind it. This will help give an outline of what the archives are and identify gaps that are missing.
5. Keep two good quality copies of any hardcopy material you produce such as flyers, posters, pamphlets, newsletters etc. and keep backups of your digital records.

6. Ask around within the organisation, or speak with past members, to see who has what (you'll be surprised what's tucked away under beds, in cupboards and lofts), combine them, and see what is missing.
7. Photographs – note who took the photograph (very important for copyright) as well as who is in the photos, where they were taken and when.
8. Objects are relevant too – badges, banners, placards, T-shirts etc. - anything produced as part of the workings of your group.
9. Date and label everything/everyone (I know, I'm repeating point 1, but it's very important, so worthwhile repeating!).

If anyone or any group has some archives related to Haringey that they think might be of interest to us at Bruce Castle, then please do get in touch. Alternatively, if you'd like some advice on setting up your own community archive, what to keep as archives and best practice, then please do get in touch as well.

And during this period of self-isolation, just to add that if you are having a de-clutter or a sort-through of things, please think twice about getting rid of old flyers or badges from any local organisation you might be involved with – it might be the very thing that we want for our collections!

With thanks to the community archives highlighted here – to the collecting and recollections of Dave Morris, Veronica McKenzie and the committee of the HFWWPF.

Julie Melrose, Archivist

Keep well and stay safe indoors.
Best wishes
From all at Bruce Castle

Deborah Hedgecock, Curator Haringey Council
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