

Wednesday post – Special Commemorative and Reflective Event Today Wednesday 8 April 2020

Welcome to our Wednesday post – as we share our heritage from Bruce Castle Museum & Archive.

We're sending out a special reflective post today, 8 April 2020, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the passing of one of Haringey's most noted, revered and influential Council Members and Members of Parliament, Bernie Grant MP (1944-2000). And far below, you will find an invitation to a live [online event at 12 noon today](#), to celebrate the man and his legacy.



Bernie Grant at the opening of the West Indian Cultural Centre, 9 Clarendon Road, Hornsey in November 1987

From the collections of Bruce Castle Museum & Archive. Photographer Henry Jacobs, © Sharon Grant

In 1978 Bernie Grant was elected as a Council Member for the London Borough of Haringey, and in 1985 was elected Leader, becoming the first black leader of a local authority in the UK. He was elected as a Member of Parliament for Tottenham in 1987, retaining his seat until his untimely death in 2000.

Through his work with trade unions, grass-roots communities and in local, national and international politics, Grant continuously campaigned for social and

racial justice. He was also an anti-apartheid campaigner and an outspoken supporter of minority and disability rights and gender equality.



Bernie Grant at the Ebenezer Welfare Centre (now Ebenezer Community Learning Centre) at 726-728 Seven Sisters Road, Tottenham c.1991

From the collections of Bruce Castle Museum & Archive. Photographer Henry Jacobs, © Sharon Grant

Bernie's legacy continues to inspire creative projects based around social justice, community cohesion, activism and equality. [Marginalised No More](#) is one such project, funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund, which utilised the [Bernie Grant Archive](#) collection held at [Bishopsgate Institute](#) in its programme as an inspirational learning source. The project engaged and enabled young Londoners (aged between 18-25 years) to learn about Bernie's work, the racial and societal equality he campaigned for in Haringey, and the communities and organisations he supported throughout the 1980s up until his death in 2000.

Through the project young people not only learnt about the struggles and campaigns through the archive material, they used that knowledge to explore ideas around their own identity and citizenship. The project brought in community leaders and entrepreneurs to mentor and guide the young people in developing leadership, project management and arts/heritage skills, and to help them build their abilities to enable them to look to the future with confidence, pride and strength. In October 2019 the young participants produced, with guidance and peer-support from Emergency Exit Arts, a [full day's festival programme of arts events](#) celebrating the project and Bernie's legacy.



Screen grab of the *Marginalised No More* webpage on the Bernie Grant Archive website (April 2020)



Bernie Grant at the opening of the West Indian Cultural Centre, November 1987
From the collections of Bruce Castle Museum & Archive. Photographer Henry Jacobs, © Sharon Grant

To commemorate Bernie Grant's contribution to Haringey and the many communities he championed and causes he campaigned for, we are sharing

Wood Green Futures invite and the details (below) to attend a live online celebration today:

BERNIE GRANT AND BEYOND Bringing Communities Together

Community collaboration, determination and creativity ensures that a virtual tribute and reunion to celebrate Bernie Grant and Beyond will take place as planned on:

Wednesday 8 April, 12 noon
Available online www.aitv.com

The project has compiled heart-warming tributes which will air live and be available online. Local, creative entrepreneurs and community activists have invested their *BERNIE Memories*, as this year marks the 20th anniversary of his passing. Community contributors, friends, family and former colleagues will be storytelling, sharing adoring personal photos and recalling events with nostalgia.

[Alex Pascall OBE](#), Cultural Ambassador of the **Bernie Grant and Beyond** project,
said of Bernie:

“His work was rooted in tireless community activism, providing a dependable service for all. A respected community organiser and the first black council leader in Haringey, Bernie served his diverse spectrum of residents from a variety cultural backgrounds, of whom were Black Caribbean. Citizens of the Windrush Generation along with refugees from several countries facing war and conflict were welcome and supported in Haringey.”

The Global Trade Centre

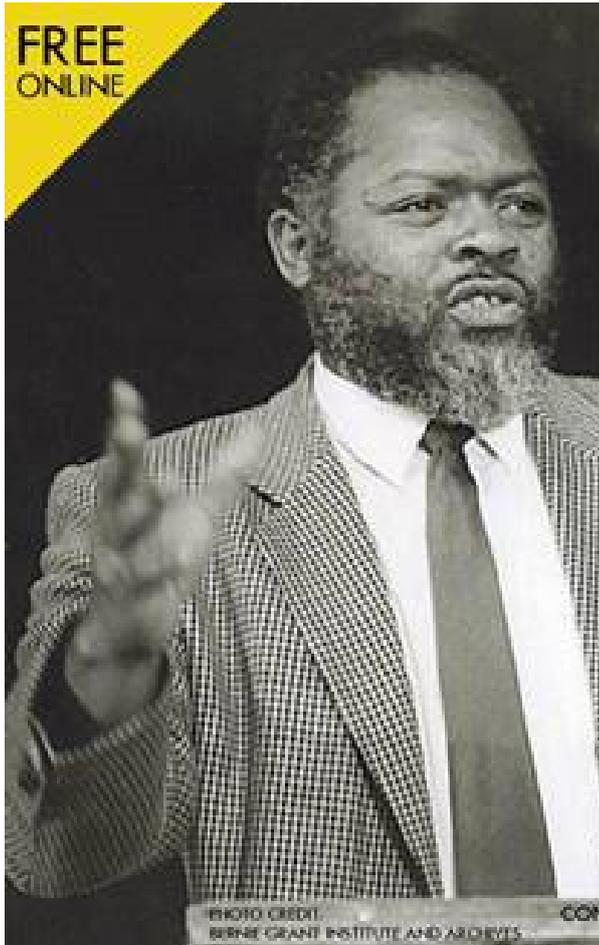
Cllr Isidoros Diakides (Tottenham Green) and former Executive Director of **The Global Trade Centre** remembers those days and recalls the determination of Bernie Grant to establish the Centre that acknowledges the links and networks which London's minority ethnic communities have, through shared language and culture with their country of origin.

The Global Trade Centre opened in 1995 in Tottenham as a national resource with support from NLTEC/Business Links. It was a unique resource whose primary aim was to provide a wide range of international trade information and technical support to local businesses, encouraging the development of trade links between Africa, the Caribbean and business within London and the UK.

On 8 April, there will be an online gathering of former local, national and global business advisors, entrepreneurs and community contributors, community leaders and consultants sharing their thoughts and tributes to Bernie Grant on this anniversary day.

Please join us - **Wood Green Futures** - and the online commemorative reunion at midday, Wednesday 8 April. Go online at www.aitv.com to celebrate the man, and his legacy with your tributes, stories and photos.

[Click here for more information](#) about the event.



FREE ONLINE

Wood Green Futures

presents

BERNIE GRANT AND BEYOND

A COMMUNITY TRIBUTE & GLOBAL TRADE CENTRE REUNION

The Global Trade Centre opened in 1995, located in Tottenham as a national resource with support from NLETC/ Business Link to help develop international trade opportunities for local businesses and new entrepreneurs, utilising those advantages created by the diversity of the local population. There will be a reunion of business owners, entrepreneurs, community leaders and consultants.

DO YOU APPEAR IN A PICTURE WITH BERNIE GRANT? TELL US YOUR STORY. CALL SONJA ON 07778224342

Oral interviews, Photos & Testimonials from local and global communities

AVAILABLE ONLINE 
www.aitv.com

WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL 2020 | MIDDAY
Bernie Grant opened African Caribbean Cultural Centre, Chestnuts Community Centre and The Selby Centre

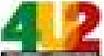
    

PHOTO CREDIT: BERNIE GRANT INSTITUTE AND ARCHIVES

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Keep well, stay indoors
Best wishes

Julie Melrose, Archivist
And all at Bruce Castle

Deborah Hedgecock
Curator

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Curator

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