
EVENTS

Friday 1st February 2008

Service in support of rough sleepers, Leeds Parish Church, 7 pm

Monday 31st March 2008

Caryl Phillips will speak about the meaning of David's life and death in Leeds, and Ian Duhig (Eliot Poetry Prize Nominee) will read his poem about David
7 pm Leeds West Indian Centre, Laycock Place, Leeds LS7 3JA

Thursday 15th May 2008

Kester Aspden will discuss his recent book on David Oluwale and Rommi Smith and FWords will present an artistic and poetic response to David's life and death.
7 pm. Venue to be confirmed.

MORE ABOUT OLUWALE

1. Ron Phillips (1972) 'The Death of One Lame Darkie' *Race Today*, January.
2. Jeremy Sandford (1974) *Smiling David*, London: Caldor & Boyers.
3. Kester Aspden (2007) *Nationality: Wog - The Hounding of David Oluwale*, London: Jonathan Cape.
4. Caryl Phillips (2007) *Foreigners - Three English Lives*, London: Harvill Secker.
5. Google 'David Oluwale' for thousands of references.

CONTACT DETAILS

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David Oluwale
An appeal for a Memorial in Leeds



AN APPEAL FOR A MEMORIAL IN LEEDS

DAVID OLUWALE

David Oluwale arrived in Hull as a stowaway from his native Nigeria in September 1949. He served 28 days in Leeds Prison for his crime. Twenty years later, in May 1969, he was pulled out of the River Aire, at Knostrop in Leeds, where he had drowned. David had spent ten of the sixteen years between 1953 and 1969 in High Royds Psychiatric Hospital; for the other six years he lived rough on the streets of Leeds. In November 1971, two Leeds police officers were acquitted of the manslaughter of David Oluwale, but were imprisoned for assaulting him.

Much has changed in Leeds since then. We believe the city can now understand and sympathise with David's difficult life and awful death. Citizens of Leeds can think creatively about the plight of today's rough sleepers and ensure that none could suffer David's fate in the Twenty-first century. We now appeal for your support in erecting a Memorial to David Oluwale which will help the city reconcile itself with the past and move forward.

So our memorial appeal is made in this spirit: to help us understand our past, celebrate our progress, and acknowledge how much further we have to go before we have a city where equal rights and justice prevail for everyone, whatever their colour or social status.

THE DAVID OLUWALE MEMORIAL APPEAL GROUP

Two recent books about David have received widespread publicity nationally, and public events with their authors in Leeds have attracted significant audiences. Many have signed up to support the Memorial Appeal. A Memorial Committee has now been formed to obtain the necessary permissions and raise money for its construction. The committee will organise further public events to raise awareness and generate more support. At the moment we are discussing various ideas for a Memorial, ranging from a plaque in a public place, or a piece of sculpture, or a small park, or a combination of these.

David spent some nights at St George's Crypt Faith Lodge Hostel in the Little London area of Leeds. It was one of the few places that would accept him. Faith Lodge has recently been substantially refurbished and features a therapeutic garden. St George's Crypt wishes to place in that garden a memorial to David and all other rough sleepers whose have died prematurely. We will support this initiative and any others which seek to remember David in the spirit we present here.

THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Max Farrar, Community Partnerships,
Leeds Metropolitan University

Canon Kathryn Fitzsimons, Diocese of Ripon and
Leeds

Arthur France MBE, Chairperson,
Leeds West Indian Centre

Mahalia France, Transformations Bicentennial
Committee

Bill Kilgallon OBE, CEO St Gemma's Hospice

Martin Patterson, Fund Raising and Public Relations
Director, St George's Crypt

Rommi Smith, Poet and playwright

Martin Wainwright, The Guardian

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO

At this stage, we are simply asking you to write to the address overleaf saying that you would like to support this appeal, adding any observations or advice that you have to our campaign. We would also be grateful if you would raise this matter and ask for support in any organisations of which you are a member. Please let us know the organisation's response.

We would also like you to attend one or more of the events listed overleaf.