

Journey to Justice

4 June 2018 – 31 August 2018

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jnr.

In the 50th anniversary year after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jnr., Dorset hosts temporary exhibition 'Journey to Justice'.

Through music, interviews and interactive displays, this touring exhibition looks the US civil rights movement and tells the extraordinary story of some of the less well-known women, men and children involved.

Temporary exhibitions are free; museum and permanent exhibition is chargeable.

Following Paul Robeson's Footsteps

23 May 2018

Ahead of his performance at Dorchester Arts, Nigerian-born Tayo Aluko presents his talk about his Paul Robeson-inspired play, 'Call Mr. Robeson'.

As part of the upcoming 'Journey to Justice' exhibition at Shire Hall, we are pleased to welcome Tayo Aluko to talk about his play 'Call Mr Robeson', which he will be performing the following evening at Dorchester Arts.

Aluko originally trained as an architect, until a chance conversation led to him discover the story of American actor, singer and civil rights campaigner Paul Robeson. It was a moment that would send him on a very different life path: one that has taken him around the world with his play 'Call Mr. Robeson', including a visit to Dorchester in 2011.

In this presentation linked to the play, Aluko seeks to explain how better-known civil-rights figures are following in Robeson's own footsteps. With recent developments in America and elsewhere, the journey's end still remains elusive, and he asks, "Which way now?"

In partnership with Dorchester Arts. Aluko will be performing his play, 'Call Mr. Robeson' at Dorchester Arts the following night, Thursday 24 May 2018 Tickets are available online, by telephone (01305 266926) or at the box office weekdays between 10.00 and 16.00.

If you buy combined talk and Call Mr Robeson play tickets you will receive a £1.00 discount on your purchase.

Human Cargo

13 June 2018

Human Cargo is an epic night of story and song, featuring two masters of the craft. Storyteller and singer Matthew Crampton's recent show *The Transports* won Five Stars from The Guardian. Now he returns with a new adaptation of his acclaimed book

Human Cargo: Stories & Songs of Emigration, Slavery and Transportation. An inspired collaboration unites Matthew with American traditional music legend Jeff Warner. Together, they cast fresh light on human migration, giving voice to those actually aboard the slave ships and emigrant boats and, crucially, framing today's heated issue with history and humanity.

Clarence Austin the Photographer and the Bridport Wildcat Women

22 June 2018

An illustrated talk by Carlos Guarita with support from Cartoon Action Theatre
A hundred years ago a group of women workers in Gundry's net and rope factory in Bridport staged a wildcat strike. They walked around the town singing suffragette songs. They refused arbitration from the local MP, and returned to work only after a London trade union official came down to sign them up and settle the dispute. All this would long be forgotten except that a young photographer, Clarence Henry Austin, was on the spot to record the scenes. Original research unearthed new material about the life of this unknown but gifted photojournalist, whose work interweaves with the social history of Bridport, and who came to a tragic end.

Tickets £3.00

Justice Café: Dorset's Hidden Histories

25 July 2018

The talk follows the story of Dorset's hidden black histories, beginning with the African slave trade era and links with local slave traders, abolitionists and enslaved Africans who came to Dorset right up to contemporary case studies of black people in Dorset. Louisa also looks at the fascinating stories of the Edwardian entertainers who came to Dorset and local the presence of the thousands of African American GIs during the run up to D-Day.

This talk is based on the research carried out by Louisa Adjoa Parker for the *Dorset's Hidden Histories* book, published by Development Education in Dorset in 2007. Louisa Adjoa Parker is a writer of Ghanaian and white English heritage, and has lived in the South West for most of her life. She writes black (or global) history; poetry; fiction; and opinion pieces. She is passionate about equality and social justice. Visit her website here: www.louisaadjoaparker.com

Justice Café: An archaeology of the Greenham Women's Peace Camps

30 August 2018

with Dr Yvonne Marshall & Dr Kayt Armstrong

Linking to Shire Hall's current temporary exhibition Radical Dorset's look at protest, this talk seeks to look at a well-known protest site from a very different perspective.

From 1981-2000 'peace women' protesters maintained camps at some or all of the gates into the US Airforce Base at Greenham Common, Newberry, Berkshire. Their protest was against the planned deployment of nuclear Cruise missiles at the Greenham

base. The number of protesters varied widely as women from across the globe came and went. For the 'Embrace the Base' protest day more than 20,000 women came to Greenham, but at other times numbers fell well below 100. The protesters lived in improvised plastic 'benders' and actively sought to 'live lightly on the land' leaving as little footprint as possible. In addition, the women were subject to repeated evictions and for several years evictions could happen on a daily basis.

The Common Ground Project, conducted from 2003-6 sought, among other objectives, to document and characterise the archaeology of the women's camps. In the first instance we simply wanted to find out if such a thing as a peace women's archaeological record could be identified at Greenham. Happily we did find one. This paper offers a brief summary of that archaeology and in particular discusses the character of the peace women's settlements at four sites of occupation

Which is less likely to achieve truth: the American or the British justice system?

8th August 2018

International Human Rights Lawyer and founder of Reprieve Clive Stafford Smith examines these two justice systems, founded from a common root but grown along different paths since the building of Shire Hall, and asks: How far have we come since the Tolpuddle Martyrs were tried in Shire Hall?

Clive is the founder of the organisation Reprieve, which provides free legal and investigative support to some of the world's most vulnerable people: those facing execution, and those victimised by states' abusive counter-terror policies.

All proceeds will go towards the educational programme at Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum.