

THE BATTLE OF PLASSEY (POLASHIR JUDDHO) 23 JUNE 1757 250 YEARS



Poetry Reading

Saturday 23 June 07, 3-5pm (Free)

Conference

Sunday 24 June 07, 11am-5pm

(see below for conference details and fee, lunch 1.45-2.30pm)

Lab 4 & 5, Idea Store Whitechapel

321 Whitechapel Rd, London E1 1BU

East India Company Walk

Sunday 1 July 07, 3-5pm (£10 per person)



23 June 2007 will be the 250th year of the Battle of Plassey. This was a decisive day in 1757 when the British achieved victory in Bengal under Robert Clive. It was also the beginning of the British Indian Empire. The events organised by Brick Lane Circle (BLC) will consist of a Poetry Reading session on Saturday 23 June and a one day Conference on Sunday 24 June at the Whitechapel Idea Store followed by an East India Company Walk on Sunday 1 July. The Conference will bring together a number of scholars, researchers and members of the community where the context, impacts and the implications of the Battle of Plassey will be explored.

The East End of London is dotted with important sites and buildings that have historical links with Bengal. The area is also the home of the largest concentration of Bangladeshi people in the UK. The 250 Years anniversary events of the British conquest of Bengal will provide a focus to engage people from diverse backgrounds to explore the area's historical links with Bengal. It will also help widen the public appreciation of the deeper historical connections between London's multi-cultural communities.

CONFERENCE, 24 JUNE 2007, 11.00am - 1.45pm

Chaired by **Rumman Ahmed**, Board Member
London Development Agency (LDA)

Military techniques and the organisation of state in 17th Century Britain and Bengal by *Dr Jon E. Wilson*. He teaches history of South Asia at King's College London, and is currently completing a book on the colonial regime in Bengal entitled *The Domination of Strangers*. He studied History and Anthropology at Oxford University and the New School for Social Research. He is actively involved in politics, and was a councillor in the London Borough of Waltham Forest between 2002-06.

The Battle of Plassey: the context and the decisive impact of Mir Jafar's betrayal by *Dr Muhammad Ahmedullah*. He has been working in major inner city regeneration programmes in the UK since 1989. He completed his PhD in 1998 on the Relationship between Epistemology and Political Theory from Kent University. Since May 2005 he has been delivering a unique exhibition on Dhaka City around the UK.

Popular perceptions versus authoritative constructions of Plassey by *Dr Tasleem Shakur*, Director of International Centre for Development & Environmental Studies (ICDES); Editor-Global Built Environment Review (GBER); Co-editor of South Asian Cultural Studies (SACS), Edge Hill University, Lancashire and *Abu Musa Muhammad Arif Billah*, PhD student at SOAS and an academic from Dhaka University, with a rich background in Farsi / Bengali literature.

For details contact 07903 671787 / bricklanecircle@yahoo.co.uk.

Conference fee: £5 - students and those who are not in employment
£15 - other individuals and voluntary organisations
£30 - public sector bodies and private businesses

Advance booking only! Conference fee includes lunch!

Please book early to avoid disappointment!

To book a place on any of the 250 Years events please email BLC with your details - name, address, telephone and the number of places you wish to reserve. **First come first serve basis will apply in all cases.**

CONFERENCE, 24 JUNE 2007, 2.30 - 5.00pm

Chaired by **Sharifa Khanom**, Youth Project Worker
Tower Hamlets PDC, Humanities Education Centre

Imperial Corporation: The legacy of the East India Company in Britain and Bengal by *Nick Robins*. He works in the City of London to promote sustainable and responsible investment. He is the author of *The Corporation that Changed the World: How the East India Company Shaped the Modern Multinational* (Pluto, 2006), and is a columnist for *The Ecologist Magazine*.

Palashi Forgotten: Silencing the past and 21st century Britishness by *Dr Georgie Wemyss*. She lived in Dhaka in 1988-9, where she began to study Bangla. She has been involved with Tower Hamlets College since 1989, initially in youthwork and later teaching. Currently, she teaches Social Anthropology and South Asian Studies at Tower Hamlets College and has a research fellowship at Surrey University, where she is completing a book based on her D. Phil Thesis.

Long-run economic effects of the British impact on Bengal by *Professor Mushtaq Khan*, Professor of economics at School of African and Oriental Studies. He completed his undergraduate studies in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Oxford and then won a scholarship for his PhD studies in Economics at Cambridge. Previously he taught at the universities of both Oxford and Cambridge. Information on his research interests are available on <http://mercury.soas.ac.uk/users/mk17/>

The Battle of Plassey Young People's Project

BLC will run an October 2007 Black History Month programme and engage a group of young people to undertake research on a particular area of their interest linked to an East India Company site in East London. They will be supported with workshops, guided tours and assistance in writing a short article based on their research. The writings will be put together in a publication for launch in March 2008. For details and how to get involved please contact BLC. If you are interested in participating please send your details by email, stating why you are interested and what you can bring to the project.