



DR. CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

CHAIRMAN OF CEAL

“ Whilst libraries and many of the art galleries remain shut; the LITE exhibition will act as a boon to the local people who during the crisis of COVID-19 feel isolated and secluded.”

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP NEWSLETTER

**SEPT
2020**

SUPPORT SERVICES TO ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITIES INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE



THE INDUSTRIAL THE LEGACY OF INDUSTRIAL TEXTILES ENTERPRISE (LITE) EXHIBITION

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) has supported CEAL's endeavours to collect, preserve and share the heritage of minority ethnic/migrant communities in the West Midlands.

The unique LITE exhibition honoured both employers and employees who laboured to uplift their social standing whilst making a significant economic contribution to British society in the field of textile manufacturing. The exhibition showcased unique journeys of first-generation migrants of African, Caribbean and

South Asians living in Birmingham, Sandwell and Wolverhampton from the 1950's - 2000.

The theme of the exhibition was around preservation of Industrial textiles histories from 1950s to 2000 in the West Midlands. The exhibition depicted cultural, social, and manufacturing history of migrants.

Due to COVID-19, number of audiences were restricted to only 12.



CHAIR OF CEAL, DR CHRISTOPHER A. JOHNSON, OPENED THE EXHIBITION BY WELCOMING THE AUDIENCES.

He spoke about the first migrant enterprise (from West Africa), established during the late 18th century, followed by South Asia and the Caribbean in the early 20th century respectively.

Since that time, migrant integration has played a vital role in the economy and social fabric of British society. He emphasised that our work denotes humanity, oneness, social justice, learning and growth of individuals and groups, emphasising CEAL's human-centred principles.

Dr. Johnson highlighted the capability and capacity of local community's vibrant textiles heritage.



Harminder K Bhogal (Project Manager) reflected on the origins of CEAL's heritage project and its role in unearthing forgotten histories beginning from the second half of the 20th century. She spoke about people's involvement and the project impacts on diverse communities and emphasised that there remains much more to do, 'we have only scratched the surface'. Bhogal thanked the NLHF for its unwavering support during these unprecedented times.

“These are challenging times, ordinarily, we inspire larger audiences to participate in such an opening but now aligning with Government guidelines, we have to restrict numbers; we will continue to do uttermost to engage with people using newer ways.”

Harminder Bhogal (Programme Manager)



A PERSONAL JOURNEYS OF COLOUR, TEXTURE AND DESIGN

Ranbir Kaur and Bernadette Francis engaged the audiences as they touched upon their own life journeys related to their respective arts heritage. Both professionals expressed that they are looking forward to commencing weekly workshops on textiles heritage.



THE IMPORTANCE OF CAPTURING HERITAGE STORIES.

The Chair of Greet Green Fajli Bibi concluded the exhibition, emphasising the importance of capturing heritage stories. She spoke about demonstrating inclusivity in everything that civic organisations do. Bibi commended CEAL for its pioneering work on capturing textiles heritage that is both tangible and intangible.

LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE! FEEDBACK FROM THE EXHIBITION OPENING

MP Nicola Richards along with Chair West Bromwich Association Scott Chapman came to view the exhibition on Friday 17th September 2020.



“It is fantastic to come and see the exhibition here at Greet Green today and to see all the amazing contribution to textiles made by diverse communities.”

MP Nicola Richards

“I am proud of CEAL’s relentless work to give an exposure of the forgotten history; the workshops will stimulate greater interest and fascination in Textiles Heritage.”

Devinder Ryatt (Director of CEAL)

“It is wonderful to see the great contribution made by BAME communities to the Textiles heritage and history in the Black Country. Very impressive and inspirational work.”

Fajli Bibi (Chair of GGCE)



“It was an excellent opening; I would like to see how we can keep the heritage and arts skills alive particularly in the local cottage industry”

Wendy Brookfield, Chief Executive Officer

“This exhibition was an eye opener’ I have learnt lot a about forgotten history, especially around textiles heritage.”

PhD Student, Birmingham University

“Simply amazing work that CEAL is doing, the work addresses different themes that are important to all aspects of human life, it should continue.”

Reverend Alfred Williams

“Excellent exhibition, good to see history being revisited.”

Susan Bartleet-Cross

“The LITE exhibition at Greet Green is a wonderful insite into the textile industries that were once commonplace across the Black Country. Well done to all that made this happen”

Scott Chapman (Chair Sandwell Conservatives)

DISCOVER AND LEARN NEW SKILLS FROM TEXTILES SPECIALISTS

You are invited to the follow up textiles' workshops led by renowned award winning international Rangoli artist, Ranbir Kaur and Textiles Weaving Specialist Bernadette Francis. The sessions will be held every Wednesday from 1.00-3.00 pm starting on 16 September 2020. The participants will create a legacy banner using different textiles materials and fabrics.

Ranbir Kaur is an international Rangoli and textile artist. Her passion for sharing her knowledge and global experiences has led her to create and develop workshops that inspire children and adults to explore traditional arts heritage.



Bernadette Francis is a specialist in fabric construction, using looms to renew heritage of weaving. Bernadette is keen to share her expertise and skills with the interested participants.



HOW TO VIEW THIS WONDERFUL EXHIBITION

The LITE exhibition is currently installed at the Wood Lane Community Centre, 157 Wood Lane, West Bromwich West Midlands B70 9PT.

Due to social distancing, we are inviting up to 6 people at a time to view the exhibition every Wednesday, using our bookings-first system. You are required to book in advance via email or phone, booking details below.

Harminder Bhogal (Programme Manager)

Email: harminder@ceal.org.uk

Booking Telephone number: 07891479255

We'd like to thank all participants who joined our online webinars on heritage, culture and enterprise, these online sessions will continue until 16 November 2020.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Community Education Academy of Leadership (CEAL)

Wood Lane Community Centre, 157 Wood Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 9PT.

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