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## The Battle of Plassey Annual Conference '253 years after the Battle'

Sunday 4 July 2010, 11am-5pm, Lab 2 & 3  
Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Rd, London E1 1BU

23 June 2010 is the 253 years anniversary of the Battle of Plassey. It was on this day in 1757 that the East India Company conquered Bengal under the leadership of Robert Clive. It was also the beginning of the British Indian Empire.

Brick Lane Circle recently delivered a unique project that engaged a group of young people (18-25) who explored and wrote a book on the legacy of the East India Company and London's historical links with Bengal.

The 2010 Annual Plassey Conference has been designed to continue and help increase the interest generated by the writing of the book *Plassey's Legacy: Young Londoners Explore the Hidden Story of the East India Company*.

You will be able to meet some of the young authors at the conference and obtain a free copy of the book.

**MORNING SESSION 11.00AM-1.30PM: CHAIRED BY SAMIA RAHMAN**

### CATALOGUING THE CLIVE PAPERS IN THE BRITISH LIBRARY

By Marie-Claire Wyatt, who has an MA in Medieval Studies from the University of York and received her Archive qualification from University College Dublin in 2005. She has worked at the British Library since 2007, first in the Manuscripts Department cataloguing the Coleridge Family Archive, then in India Office Records where she has been responsible for cataloguing the papers of Robert, Baron Clive of Plassey and of John, 13th Lord Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay.

### THE GREAT BENGAL FAMINE OF 1770: NEW PERSPECTIVES

By Dr Tirthankar Roy, who is Reader in Economic History, London School of Economics. He has published extensively on economic and social history of modern South Asia, including a successful text, *The Economic History of India 1857-1947*, OUP India 2000, and a monograph on the history of the textile artisans from Cambridge University Press in 1999.

**LUNCH 1.30 - 2.15PM (£6.00 per person for lunch)**

**AFTERNOON SESSION 2.15-5.00PM: CHAIRED BY NIAZ ALOM**

### MONSOON TRADERS: THE MARITIME WORLD OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

By Dr Robert Blyth, who is curator of imperial and maritime history at the National Maritime Museum. He has written on British India's maritime frontiers in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and on the history and material culture of transatlantic slavery. He is currently co-authoring a maritime history of the East India Company.

### TEA: DIVIDING POLITICS, UNITING HERITAGE

By Ruhana Ali, who is a co-author of *Plassey's Legacy*. She graduated in Social Policy, Criminal Justice & Psychology from the London School of Economics. She is a freelance writer, journalist, television presenter in the community and currently works as a community organiser for London Citizens.

**All welcome! Free Entry! Advance booking only!**

For details please call 07574224891 or email [bricklanecircle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bricklanecircle@yahoo.co.uk)



**EAST INDIA COMPANY WALKS**  
(Advance booking only)

**EAST INDIA COMPANY DOCKSIDE**  
26 June 2010, 2-4pm

By Dr Georgie Wemyss (the author of *The Invisible Empire: White Discourse, Tolerance and Belonging* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009), supported by Asiya Khanom and Lothifa Chowdhury (co-authors of *Plassey's Legacy*)

**CITY OF LONDON AND WEST END**  
Saturday 10 July 2010, 3-5pm,

By Nick Robins (author of *The Corporation that Changed the World: How the East India Company Shaped the Modern Multinational*), supported by Samia Rahman (co-author of *Plassey's Legacy*)

### BENGAL HISTORY WEEK

Brick Lane Circle will organise a **Bengal History Week** during the October 2010 Black History Month.

Our aim is to promote the objective and non ideological research and dissemination of Bengal's history, particularly with respect to the cultures and traditions of Bangladesh.

### AMAZING BANGLADESHIS

Bangladesh will be forty years old in 2011. In 1971 a new country was born on the eastern side of India, after a bloody Liberation War that lasted nine months. Since independence the people of Bangladesh made significant strides, overcoming many barriers and difficult challenges.

**We want to celebrate our four decades.**

Brick Lane Circle throws a challenge to all Bangladeshis, whether at home or around the world: **do something amazing during 2011**. In our country's fortieth year, we want to show that Bangladeshis can perfect the art of the impossible.

We are encouraging anyone to come forward and initiate an activity whose goals will be remarkable and awe-inspiring.

It can be an individual or a collective endeavour, aimed at personal development, community benefit or for the good of humanity in general. For example, a student may set a higher exam result targets or an eye surgeon may aspire to help restore the eye sights of 1,000 people.

From now and until the end of this year Brick Lane Circle aims to gain 1,000 pledges from individuals and groups and organise an event on 16 December 2010 to formally launch the **Amazing Bangladeshis** concept.



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