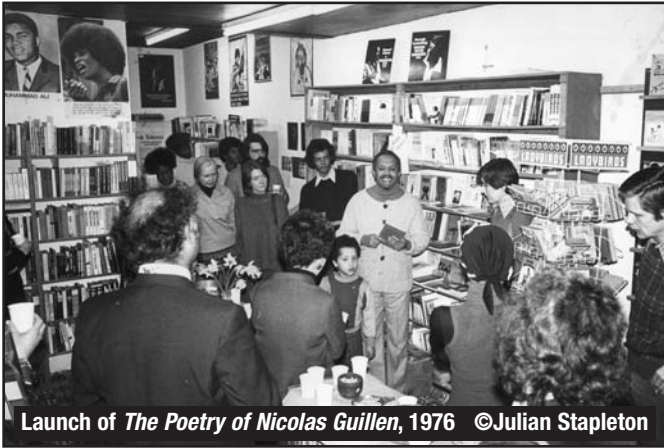


AUTUMN EVENTS AT THE GPI

THE UK'S FIRST BLACK PUBLISHER & BOOKSHOP CELEBRATES 50 YEAR LANDMARK



The George Padmore Institute (GPI) is organising a series of exciting events this autumn to celebrate the pioneering achievements of New Beacon Books since its formation in 1966.

Apart from its book trade, New Beacon Books has been at the centre of ground-breaking political and social projects, organisations and campaigns, including the Caribbean Artists Movement (1966-72), the International Book Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books (1982-95), the New Cross Massacre Action Committee (1981) and the Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners in Kenya (1980s).

New Beacon's ethos is to connect different generations of black, Asian and minority ethnic populations by passing on knowledge of BAME history via grassroots independent organisation and the ability to build strong foundations and committed networks. In doing so, they have paved the way for many of the important political, social and artistic organisations which exist today. New Beacon's success is testimony to the endeavour of the UK's first and second generations from Africa, the Caribbean and Asia to transform British society into a place which, though far from perfect, is far more diverse, multicultural and tolerant than five decades ago.

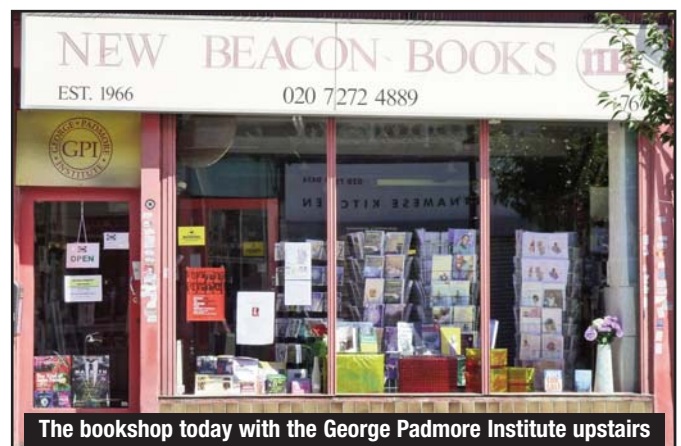
The heart of the 50th anniversary celebrations is the appointment of a Poet-in-Residence for three months at the GPI. Black British poet **Jay Bernard** will explore the GPI's unique archives (including the recently catalogued personal papers of New Beacon Books founder, John La Rose) and will produce a set of poems which creatively reflect on the archives she finds. Her poems will be published in a commemorative booklet, which will also include an essay by **Dr Ruth Bush** on the early years of New Beacon's publishing.

Two highlights of the celebrations, will be held at the **British Library**. At the **International Poetry Night**, recreating the spirit of the Black Radical Book Fairs, Jay will be reading her new poems alongside a diverse group of writers from around the world compered by internationally acclaimed poet and GPI Trustee **Linton Kwesi Johnson**. All of the poets create work which speaks to New Beacon's independent radical tradition. On the afternoon preceding the poetry night, renowned activist and educationalist **Professor Gus John** will give a keynote speech on **Changing Britannia – Through Arts and Activism**.

Other live events over the autumn at the **GPI** will focus on key issues in Black British cultural history, including forums on the 50th anniversary of the Caribbean Artists Movement, publishing for struggle, early Black British prose writing, a talk on George Padmore and the launch of a Special Issue of *Wasafiri*, the magazine of international contemporary writing.

See full programme overleaf.

While New Beacon's achievements deserve to be recognised and celebrated, both the GPI and NBB are very well aware that the world of books and publishing has changed enormously since 1966 and it is unrealistic to continue operating in the same old way. In 2017 New Beacon will be reorganising so its traditions and vision can continue into the future though not necessarily within the same structures.



AUTUMN EVENTS AT THE GPI cont
Programme for
New Beacon's 50th Anniversary Celebrations

VENUE: GEORGE PADMORE INSTITUTE
76 Stroud Green Road, London N4 3EN

George Padmore and Decolonization from Below: Pan-Africanism, the Cold War and the End of Empire

With the author **Leslie James**

Thursday 6 October 2016, 7.00pm

Entrance £5.00

The Development of the Black British Novel

With Ruel White and Yvette Edwards

Wednesday 19 October 2016, 7.00pm

Entrance £5.00

Publishing for Activism

With Roxy Harris and Michael La Rose

Thursday 3 November 2016, 7.00pm

Entrance £5.00

The Caribbean Artists Movement 1966-72: the 50th anniversary

With Anne Walmsley, Errol Lloyd, Gordon Rohlehr and Nicole Moore

Sunday 20 November 2016, 3.00pm

Entrance £5.00

Launch of *Wasafiri* Special Issue 'Print Activism in Twenty First Century Africa'

With *Wasafiri* Guest Editors: Ruth Bush and Madhu Krishnan and guests

Thursday 8 December 2016, 7.00pm

Free

VENUE: BRITISH LIBRARY CONFERENCE CENTRE
British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

Changing Britannia – Through Arts and Activism

Keynote Speech by Professor Gus John

Saturday, 3 December 2016, 4.30-6.00pm.

Entrance £5.00

A Meeting of the Continents: International Poetry Night

Jay Bernard (UK), **Imtiaz Dharker** (Pakistan/UK), **Vesna Goldsworthy** (Serbia/UK),

Lorna Goodison (Jamaica/Canada), **John Hegley** (UK), **Tabish Khair** (India/Denmark), **Vladimir Lucien** (St Lucia), **E Ethelbert Miller** (USA), **Selina Nwulu** (UK) and **Rafeef Ziadah** (Palestine/UK).

Saturday, 3 December 2016, 7.00pm.

Entrance £12.00

For more information please contact 020 7272 4889

email newbeaconbooks@btconnect.com

or visit www.georgepadmoreinstitute.org.uk

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