



DDE Newsletter No. 28

Articles ...

Paul Stephenson: the hero who refused to leave a pub – and helped desegregate Britain. [Read more ...](#)

Early 20th-century black British history is as important as Windrush. [Read more ...](#)

Woman wins UK legal fight over unlawful deportation to Uganda. Court of appeal dismisses Home Office's case against lesbian asylum seeker. [Read more ...](#)

Nigeria turns 60: Hope despite anger over corruption, poverty. [Read more ...](#)

Legal threat over anti-capitalist guidance for schools in England. Campaigners say ban on use of resources from certain political groups limits freedom of speech. [Read more ...](#)

Local news ...

Animation reveals how Exeter's St Sidwell's Point leisure centre will look. [Watch ...](#)

Plastics arrive via paddle power as part of carbon free journey. [Read more ...](#)

Exeter Aerospace opens its doors at Exeter Airport. [Read more ...](#)

Videos and podcasts ...

The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict - the history of the conflict, the reasons it's escalated and why some warn it could become a regional conflict. [Watch ...](#)

Anime has a race problem, here's how black fans are fixing it. [Watch ...](#)

Clive PiG ... Storytelling at RAMM. [Watch ...](#)

Things to do ...

Studio 74 at Exeter Phoenix reopens [Details ...](#) but Virtual Cinema continues [Details ...](#)

The RAMM re-opened last weekend [Details ...](#)

Events for Black History Month at the University [Details ...](#)

World at Lunch ...

UK to become WHO's largest state donor with 30% funding increase. Boris Johnson to call for more powers for health body in coronavirus fight as Trump pulls out. [Read more ...](#)

Welcome to libertarian Covid fantasy land – that's Sweden to you and me. The right fails to recognise that the Swedes' real virtue in this pandemic is their social cohesion. [Read more ...](#)

Fred Perry withdraws polo shirt adopted by far-right Proud Boys. Company distances itself from US fascist group as it halts sales of garment in North America. [Read more ...](#)

Amnesty to halt work in India due to government 'witch-hunt'. Authorities froze bank accounts after criticism of government's human rights record. [Read more ...](#)

Inside the revamped Bodmin jail, one of Britain's 'most haunted' buildings. [Read more ...](#)

They hate each other's political views – so why have they become friends? [Read more ...](#)

Why the Government considered shipping refugees 4,000 miles to a remote asylum processing centre island in the Atlantic. [Read more ...](#)

'UK far from the epicentre of the real challenge': Rise in Channel crossings not a crisis, says UN refugee agency. [Read more ...](#)

Lego launches new bricks to help blind children learn braille. [Read more ...](#)

With its slavery list, the National Trust makes a welcome entry to the 21st century. [Read more ...](#)
[Read report ...](#)

Paris to commemorate slave rebellion figure. [Read more ...](#)

Campaigns ...

Keep Nestle Fairtrade ... after months of campaigning, the petition with 284,000 signatures was 'handed' to Nestle's CEO on 1st October. [Read more ...](#)

From 2nd October KitKat cease to be Fairtrade ... what is the impact on the farmers? [Read more ...](#)

Stop the Deportation of Vulnerable Autistic Man Osime Brown! [Petition ...](#)

Currently the UK parliament has no meaningful say over trade deals - it does not even get a vote on them. A petition to ask the House of Lords to back trade democracy. [Petition ...](#)

Book ...

100 Great Black Britons by Patrick Vernon and Angelina Osborne. [Details ...](#)

Poem ...

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's novel about the Biafran War, 'Half of the Yellow Sun', is the context for this poem by Richard Skerman (General Gowon was President of Nigeria then and Harold Wilson was Prime Minister of the UK)

Complicity

(for Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)

It's really not my story
but, when I hear of it again,
tears well up quick, quick anyway
reminding me of then.

I could put it down to hormones -
the synthetic ones I use
to replace the ones I'm missing
since that tumour grew.

But that does not explain
why it rips up my heart,
when hearing of that struggle
in which I took no part.

Yes, I recall the photos
of the children who would die,
starved with little mercy
while the world stood by.

The leaders wanted freedom,
or so the legend went.
That state was just a fiction
our empire did invent.

But they miscalculated
the determination to hang on
to the wealth that region offered -
the war could not be won.

There was oil down in the delta
that everyone desired,
so the rich had soon decided
and silently retired ..

.. to let others do the business
ignoring all the harms,
while some still made a profit,
supplying all the arms.

Just another dismal episode
in decolonisation's wake.
Nothing to do with us, of course -
we'd left, for goodness sake!

So now we come to the part of this
which I say must be mine -
working in a silversmiths
in nineteen-sixty-nine.

One day I find I'm holding
a salver in my hands,
the sort of thing that governments
give to friends in other lands.

Engraved upon its upper face
were the words I read with shame.
They've never left my mind,
so simply they were named ..

.. 'To General and Mrs Gowon
on the occasion of their wedding
from Mr & Mrs Harold Wilson'.
That's why the tears I'm shedding.

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