

First Diversity Group Conference  
"Diversity - Dare to Win!"

**10am - 4pm Monday 4th October 2004**  
**at the University Of Wolverhampton Science Park**  
**Stafford Rd, Wolverhampton**

Speakers and Workshop Leaders Biographies

### **Gulshan Iqbal, Diversity Group Chair**

Gulshan has been with libraries for the past 19 years after joining the library service in 1985. She completed a postgraduate diploma in Librarianship from North London University in 1984, then in 1985, worked for the School of Oriental & African Studies. She was appointed first Ethnic Communities Librarian at Enfield and came to Hounslow Library Services in 1992.

Currently she works as Team Leader for Community Services, where her responsibilities include the Library at Home, the Mobile Library, Ethnic Communities and supervising library services at Feltham Young Offenders Institute.

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### **Mel Chevannes CBE FRCN**

Mel is Professor of Nursing, Dean of the School of Health and Director of Health Service Provision, University of Wolverhampton and is a Registered General Nurse, Registered Midwife, Health Visitor and professional teacher. She has a BA (Hons), Open University, MA Warwick University and a PhD, Keele University. In 1999 she was awarded a CBE for her contribution to multi-cultural nursing and in 2001 she received an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Wolverhampton.

She was a Non Executive Directive Director and Deputy Chairman of the English National Board for Nursing Midwifery and Health Visiting Up to its closure in March 2002, and a member of the Standing Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Committee at the Department of Health until 2004. In 1998 she was appointed Chairman of the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust.

Mel has worked for many years in the East and West Midlands and in the North West of England. Her professional interests are the education of nurses and research to develop a better evidence base to care for patients. She supports health care that is centred around and meets the needs of patients from all ethnic and racial groups. Mel's research is directed at ethnicity and health.

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### **Mary Heaney, Director of Learning Centres, University of Wolverhampton**

Mary has been Director of Learning Centres at the University of Wolverhampton since 1996. She chairs the joint BL/SCL/SCONUL Access & Referral Taskforce which is developing the INSPIRE scheme to facilitate access to libraries of all kinds for learners irrespective of status. She was also Convenor of The Libraries Partnership-West Midlands (formerly WMRLS) from 1998 to September 2001.

Prior to coming to the West Midlands, Mary was Director of Administration and College Secretary at St Andrew's College of Education, Glasgow, a 2 year departure from LIS work which brought her back into Higher Education from BBC Scotland. She started in the BBC in Glasgow in 1978 and undertook a range of roles in Post Production management, management of Library, Archives and Records Management Services, an attachment to the Policy and Planning Unit in BBC London, and work as Recorded Materials and Film Librarian. She began her professional career in the University of Dublin, Trinity College, Modern Languages Library in 1976.

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### **Dreadlockalien**

Richard Grant is a performance poet, slam champion, live literature lover, dub flow verse practitioner, hip hop griot and also a thoroughly reliable choice of workshop facilitator for your educational establishment or corporate events. Supported by the Arts Council

Having worked within the genre of live literature for many years, Dreadlockalien is now surely one of the busiest artists in the West Midlands and host of the infamous "Six of the Best" series of slams, touring the UK in 2004 with Amalgam Jam Productions

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### **Pat Flynn, Head of Libraries and Information Services, Leicester**

Pat has been Head of Libraries and Information in Leicester since June 2000. Her previous posts were Head of Libraries in Oldham, 1994-2000, and Community, Area and Regional Librarian posts in Birmingham between 1986 and 1994.

She has always been particularly interested in diversity and equality issues and public libraries services to disadvantaged and excluded communities.

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### **Ayub Khan**

Ayub is the Quality and Operations Manager, Core Services, for Warwickshire County Council, providing professional leadership for the library service in areas of Stock, Reader Development, Information, Community, Children and Young People, and Lifelong Learning. As a member of the Senior Management Team he is also responsible for staff development and performance management. He has held a number of posts in public libraries specialising in schools, young people and community librarianship with a recent role as Principal Project Officer (Library of Birmingham), working on plans to create the new city centre library.

Ayub was awarded a Centenary Medal from the Library Association in 1998 for Services to Librarianship and in 2003 was highly commended in the personal achievement category of the Diversity awards by CILIP.

With a strong interest in International Librarianship, Ayub has served on the Library Association's International Committee and as the International Relations Officer for the Career Development Group. He also serves on the British Council's Knowledge and Information Advisory Committee, which advises the Council on global sector strategies for library and information services.

He has a keen interest in diversity issues and served on the advisory committee for the Quality Leaders Project (an initiative to increase the Career progression of black Library and Information professionals in public libraries) and was on the Public Libraries Ethnic Diversity & Citizenship working group in Birmingham. He is past President of the Career Development Group and is currently the Group Councillor for the Diversity Group on CILIP Council.

Contact [khan@ayubk.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:khan@ayubk.freeserve.co.uk)

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### **John Pateman, Head of Libraries, Lincolnshire**

John has worked in public libraries for 25 years, in six local authorities, and has been Head of Libraries in Hackney, Merton and Lincolnshire. Particularly interested in social exclusion, internationalism and libraries as an agent of social change, he was a member of the DCMS working group which produced *Libraries for all: social inclusion in public libraries* (1999) and of the research team which produced *Open to All? The Public Library and Social Exclusion* (2000).

John was Head of Libraries in Merton when it won the Libraries Change Lives Award (2001) for services to asylum seekers and refugees and a member of the CILIP Policy Action Group on Social Exclusion which produced *Making a Difference - Innovation and Diversity* (2002). He has written a publication on *Developing a Needs Based Library Service* (2003) as part of the NIACE Lifelines in adult learning series and was a founding member of The Network - tackling social exclusion in libraries, museums, archives and galleries.

He was a founding member of the Quality Leaders Programme for Black Library Workers and founder and co-editor of *Information for Social Change* as well as founder of the Cuban Libraries Solidarity Group. In 2002 he received the National Culture Award from the Cuban government for his services to Cuban libraries and in 2003 he shared a platform with Fidel Castro at the International Congress of Culture and Development in Havana.

John is International Officer for the Lincolnshire branch of UNISON and he is secretary of the Lincolnshire Cuba Solidarity Campaign.

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## **Shiraz Durrani, Strategy and Commissioning Officer, London Borough of Merton**

Shiraz is a Kenyan in exile in Britain. He graduated from the University of East Africa in 1968 and holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Librarianship from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (1972). He became a Fellow of the then Library Association (now CILIP) in 1997 and was awarded an MBE in December 2003 for "services to public libraries".

Prior to coming to Britain, Shiraz worked for 16 years at the University of Nairobi Library. After coming to Britain, he worked at the London Borough of Hackney Library Service before moving to the London Borough of Merton where he is the Innovations and Development Manager in the Library and Heritage Service.

Shiraz has written over 80 articles in Kenyan and British, as well as international journals on politics of information with reference to Kenya and Britain. He has also presented papers at a number of international and national conferences. He has written a short history of Mau Mau: *Kimaathi, Mau Mau's First Prime Minister of Kenya* (1968, Vita Books) and his publications include *Social and Racial Exclusion Handbook for Libraries, Archives, Museums, and Galleries* (2nd ed, August 2001 Social Exclusion Action Planning Network Nadderwater, Exeter) with his new book, *Publishing and Imperialism in Kenya, 1884-1963* being published later this year.

Currently he is working on a political biography of Pio Gama Pinto, a prominent leader of the anti-imperialist movement in Kenya and Goa.

Shiraz was a member of the research team that produced *Open to All? The Public Library and Social Exclusion* (2000, Resource). He initiated the Quality Leaders Project in partnership with Management Research Centre of the London Metropolitan University where he is a Visiting Associate.

Shiraz gave a talk entitled "Struggle to ensure equal library rights for all; A challenge to librarians" at the "fair library" seminar organised by BiS at Gothenburg Book and Library Fair, 23-26 th Sept 2004. <http://www.bok-bibliotek.se/>

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## **Kal Dale, Ethnic Services Manager Wolverhampton City Libraries**

Kal has worked in the Public Library sector for nearly 25 years and in 1999, was successful in being appointed as Wolverhampton City Libraries Ethnic Services Manager.

As part of her professional development she is currently Secretary of the CILIP Diversity Group and Vice Chair of the SPICE (Specialist Provision in Community Languages and English) Group. The latter was started originally as a network to support librarians working in isolation in the Midlands whose responsibility it was to provide services to black and minority ethnic communities.

Kal finds her job both challenging and rewarding and feels very passionate about the services we need to provide to address the diversity of community needs.

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## **Pat Beech, Library and Information Services Director, National Library for the Blind**

After a long career with Shropshire Libraries Pat is now Library and Information Services Director for the National Library for the Blind (NLB). A National Councillor for the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, Pat is also Chair of CILIP's Equal Opportunities and Diversity Panel. She also sits on Arvon, the Creative Writing Foundation's Council of Management and for the last three years has been the external examiner for the University of Central England in Birmingham.