

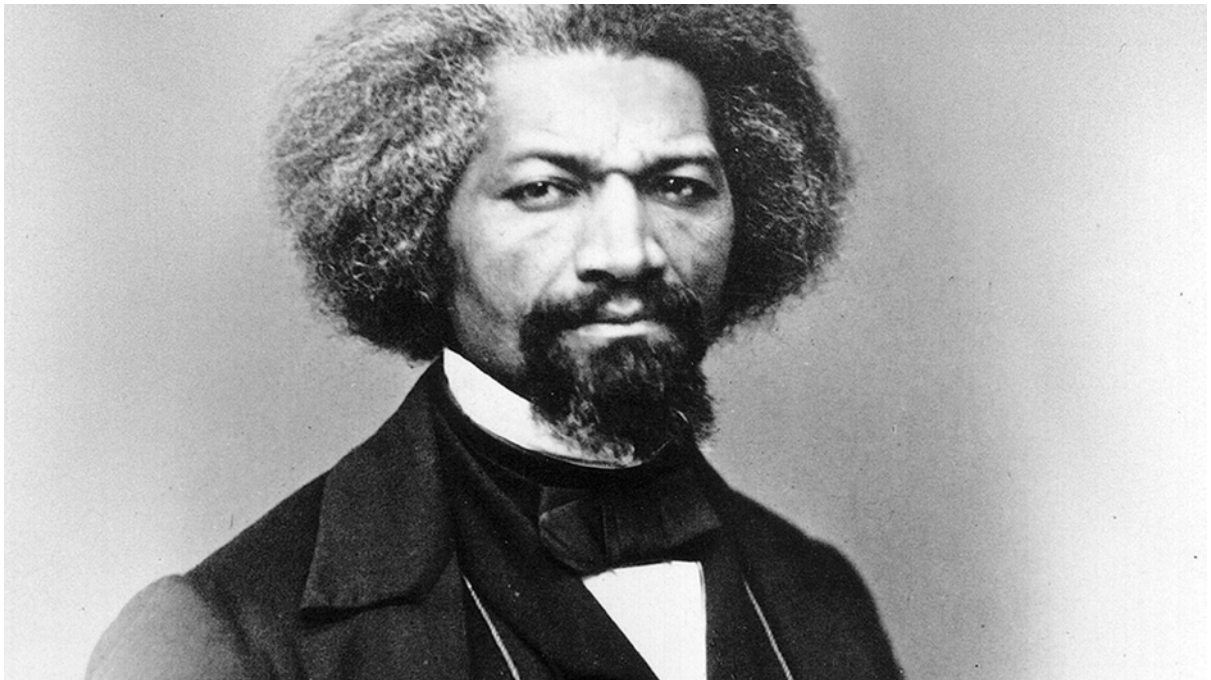


Black and Asian Police Association Greater Manchester

Newsletter: Issue 21

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Pop Ya Collar..



Frederick Douglass

1818 - 1895



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An Enduring Legacy

It could be argued that without Frederick Douglass, there would have been no Obama, and Martin Luther King may have been consigned to a mere footnote in history.

Our times are less tumultuous, but no less dangerous. Yet there was a time both turbulent and perilous. The early 19th Century was a time of considerable change. Tectonic shifts in political thought caused old nations to fall and new empires to be forged. Across the other side of the world the light of liberty shone, ever so dimly, and pierced through the long shadows of absolutism.

A new Empire was on the verge of making its everlasting mark. Not so much an empire of global conquest, but an empire of conscience. Yet all consciences are burdened by the weight of sin; and the infant nation of America was no less innocent than its ageing counterparts.

Whilst Abraham Lincoln is often considered as the champion of African Americans and the architect of the emancipation proclamation; little regard is given to the towering figure of Douglass.

It is often said that somewhere between myth and fact, one is bound to discover the truth. Douglass was a slave born into an age where freedom was a privilege, not a certainty. Douglass, endured all the uncertainties, even as a child.

It is rumoured that as a young slave, Douglass, gathered together discarded newspapers and taught himself to read and write. Other sources claim that Douglass cajoled the children of his masters to teach him. Irrespective of the truth, a great intellect was about to be unleashed upon the world.

During his term as a slave Douglass took great risks to enlighten his fellow bondsman. He established secret schools to provide other slave children a basic education.

On escaping slavery, Douglass ventured forth with all the vigour one expects of a great individual. He campaigned tirelessly throughout his life. A skilled orator he joined other abolitionist in touring the northern states of America. His wit and keen intellect whipped crowds into a frenzy. He went onto to pen four memoirs.

The American Civil War proved to a crucible moment for Douglass. The conflict was initially a question of preserving the Union. Douglass pressed Lincoln that cessation may have been at the forefront of his endeavours, however, the question of slavery in the South would have to be addressed: if indeed America was to emerge as a beacon to the world.



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During the war Douglass raised the issue of enlistment and fair treatment of black soldiers. He often criticised Lincoln for being too complacent on the issue of black men serving in the US military. Douglass understood that if America was to have any legitimacy it would have to provide full rights to all African Americans. However, it is often the case that political expediency far outweighs the plight of the oppressed.

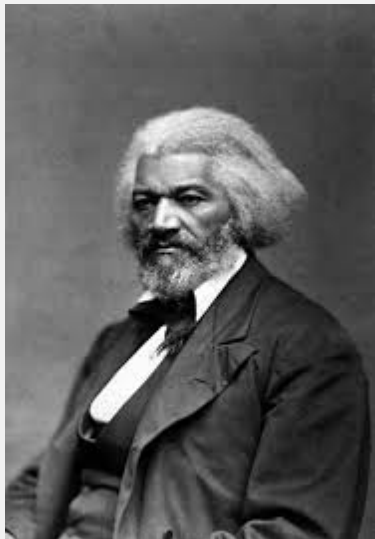
With the addition of the thirteenth amendment into the American Constitution, many abolitionists believed that their work was done. However, Douglass continued to strive for African Americans, right up until his death in 1895.

Whilst the thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the Americas, full citizen ship for African Americans was not granted until the 20th century.

In Frederick Douglass, we have an inspiring example that no matter the level of adversity, regardless of the obstacles that are placed in our path, we will endure, and we will prevail.

‘Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.’ Fredrick Douglass.

By Tahir Aslam



Frederick Douglass born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey was an African-American social reformer, abolitionist, writer and statesman. After escaping slavery in Maryland, he became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York, gaining note for his dazzling oratory and incisive antislavery writings. Douglas was a firm believer in the equality of all peoples, whether black, female, Native American or recent immigrant. He was also a believer in dialogue and in making alliances across racial and ideological divides*

*Wikipedia



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Kickoff@3 Football Tournament

The MetBPA in partnership with the Kickoff@3 team and local boroughs hosted a pan London football tournament between the months of May and July. The tournament was also held in support of the charity African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (ACLT). The charity used the tournament as a platform to inform young people about the work that they do and how they are in a position to save a life. Each of the players and spectators had the option of signing up to the stem cell register, to become a blood donor or to become an organ donor.



The Kickoff@3 team also invited a team from Manchester to play on the day. This was to build upon the relationship with the community in Manchester. During the local tournaments the players held a minutes silence for the terrorist attack in Manchester as well as the incidents in London. All of the players wanted to show their respect and acknowledge that they were thinking of those who were caught up in these incidents. The team from Manchester were welcomed and the challenge was on.

The days of the tournaments were filled with anticipation and the unknown as this was the first time that the teams were able to assess their competition

The grand finale was held at Salisbury Hall in the borough of Waltham Forest on Saturday 8th July 2017. It was a hot day and the young men were all set to win the cup. Tension was high and the competition was on. All of the players were courteous and respectful to each other as footballers even though they were all competitors.

The grand finale was won by Stonegrove Estate Football Club in Barnet with the team from Manchester as the runner up.



Well done to the Tuf-c from Manchester, You did us proud.

For More information on Tuf-c visit <http://www.tuf-c.co.uk/>



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Learning about our African and Caribbean communities

To mark the 30th anniversary of Black History Month, Counter Terrorism Policing North West in partnership with GMP's Black and Asian Police Association (BAPA) are hosting a week-long exhibition at Force Headquarters to celebrate the contributions of African and Caribbean communities to Manchester history and culture.

The exhibition will be officially opened on Monday 2 October at 11am in room 415 with a special one-off event which all staff and officers are invited, featuring high-profile speakers from Greater Manchester, a performance by a youth Reggae Band and a Human Library where real life people are on loan to readers. Our 'books' will provide a first-hand perspective of what it means to be of African or Caribbean heritage in their line of work today. Excitingly attendees will also get to sample delicious authentic African and Caribbean cuisine.

A static exhibition will be located in the Atrium of Force Headquarters from 2 – 6 October. The exhibition will showcase artwork from a number of local artists of African and Caribbean heritage alongside a selection of paintings from the nationally renowned Chucky Gallery's International Collection. The Chuck Gallery, located on Plymouth Grove in Manchester, is dedicated to the promotion of modern and contemporary African art and we are very fortunate to have them supporting this event.

The exhibition will also feature material from the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre, designated as one of the University of Manchester Library's Special Collections and housed within the Manchester Central Library.

All staff and officers are encouraged to take advantage of this exciting and unique opportunity to learn more about the history and heritage of the African and Caribbean communities in Greater Manchester.



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