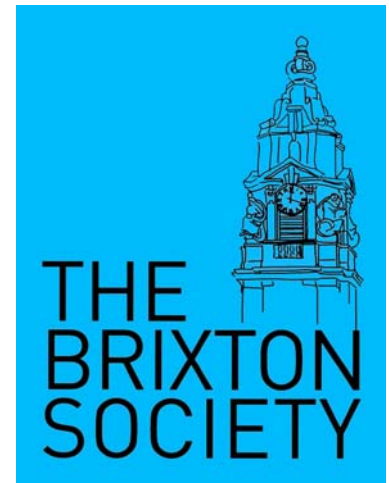


NEWSLETTER No. 185 COLOUR SUPPLEMENT

Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Sunday 25th of March 2007



The Sozo House of Praise Gospel Choir started the formal proceedings at noon with their beautiful and joyful unaccompanied singing.



The Worshipful the Mayor of Lambeth, Councillor Liz Atkinson, introduced the Commemoration (*above*). The first speaker was The Right Honourable Keith Hill, MP, Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister (*far left*) who spoke movingly about the history of the slave trade. Then, Superintendent Paul Wilson, Metropolitan Police, representing the Lambeth Borough Commander, (*left*) added a personal note to the proceedings by talking of his background and finished by highlighting the continuing problems faced by many young people of black afro-caribbean origin today.



After a pause for planting of wild and other flowers as a permanent memorial, prayers were said by The Reverend Stephen Sichel, Vicar of St Mathew's with St Jude's.



After prayers, the celebration of the positive contribution of people of black afro-caribbean origin to life and culture in today's Britain was introduced by Norma Williamson, Brixton Society Treasurer. Speakers (*from top right, in order*) were Dr Floella Benjamin, OBE, Chancellor of the University of Exeter; Derrick Anderson, CBE, Chief Executive of the London Borough of Lambeth; Devon Thomas, Chair of the Brixton Business Forum, seen pouring a libation; Ms Linda Bellos, Diversity Solutions Consultancy Ltd, a previous Leader of Lambeth Council; and Gloria Bailey, a local community group leader.



The Brixton Society acknowledges with gratitude the support of the Friends of Brixton Tate Library & Gardens, Lambeth Libraries, Lambeth Parks, the Ritzy Cinema, the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, and the National Lottery Awards for All. Our special thanks go to Veolia Environmental Services for supplying the bulbs for planting and refreshments for our guests after the event.

