



Ras Tafari ~ The Majesty & The Movement (UK)



“Africa is today at mid-course in transition from the Africa of yesterday to the Africa of tomorrow. Even as we stand here, we move from the past into the future.....We must act to mould and shape the future and leave our imprint on events as they slip past into history.” Emperor Haile Selassie I, May 1963

INTRODUCTION

Bless~sed Rastafari Greetings ~ Further to the previous Newsletters circulated around the community prior to and since returning from Ethiopia, it is with great pleasure that our committee now presents Newsletter No 6.

Rastafari Regal Livity is the Community Interest Company (CIC) established to be the formalised registered company behind the **Ras Tafari~The Majesty & The Movement exhibition** created for Ethiopia in May 2014. A team was assembled called the **Rastafari~The Majesty & The Movement UK (RMM) committee**. The idea for the Project initially brought from Ethiopia by Danijah Tafari in 2012 was designed to fulfil a mission dictated by a pre-set lifeline. The mission was to research and exhibit the connections of Ethiopia with the UK including the Pan-African links and the evolution of the Rastafari UK movement. In the course of this mission we were able to pull these two narratives together and our exhibited work highlighted these links, whilst simultaneously lifting the profile of the Majesty *and* the Movement in a singular construct, which had not been attempted previously.

Our placement in the UK led to the unique success of this research and ‘re-membling’ initiative. The process entailed recovery of Rastafari history in a new holistic paradigm, consisting of oral histories, archive material, analytical research and formal presentation at the high profile event in Ethiopia in May 2014. (See ‘*The RMM Story*’ and previous Newsletters). Our efforts touched every conceivable aspect of the Movement and took us far beyond the parameters of our original intent. This was a roller-coaster ride of discovery that propelled us into new realms of ‘overstanding Rastafari’ from a middle ground between origin and destiny, Pinnacle and Shashemane.

Fairfield House became a central motif inspiring the work of RMM(UK). This was the bridge between the past and the future, between the Carry-beyond and the Promised Land. We discovered a key perspective that unlocked the complex transition of a peculiar people. In the journey of the project partnerships unfolded naturally. These we continue to pursue methodically and with guidance, erecting a ‘living pyramid’ of concepts, voices, works and events based on a sure foundation, reaching out to a global community.

Having delivered the Exhibition at the National Museum of Ethiopia between May – June 2014 with resounding success there have been further significant achievements. This newsletter traces the Project in the post-Ethiopia period.

THE INTERGENERATIONAL CONFERENCE, QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY, MILE END, LONDON

The Intergenerational Conference dated Saturday 12th July 2014 had been set in advance of the Ethiopian mission. In retrospect this was a crucial foresight, it meant that our report on



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the Ethiopian experience would be couched in a progressive environment and at an appropriate venue the 'Queen Mary University' which according to history His Majesty had visited in 1937.



Sis Addishiwot, Ras Cos, Ras Shango & Sis Stella take questions in the Q & A session

The event was well attended by organisational representatives of AES (The Anglo Ethiopian Society), the PASCf (Pan African Social Community Forum), NNC (Nyahbinghi National Council), EWF (Ethiopian World Federation) BCA (Black Cultural Archives) as well as leading Rastafari thinkers and activists. All had played some part in assisting the project on its journey to Ethiopia. All acclaimed its success as a landmark victory.

For the first time in the UK the thirteen panels were put on display. RMM(UK) members reported on the event in turn against a background of revolving still photos from Sister Addishiwot's archives of the *trod*. Individual responses to the depiction of the UK Rastafari evolution over a 40-year period were the best guide to the impact of the Project. There were some tearful reminiscences by audience members as some recalled faces of those no longer with us. The offerings from Rastafari youths, Ras Yohannes and Sis Iyana, fulfilled the intergenerational remit of the conference. Their suggestions as up-and-coming youths in the movement highlighted the need for elders to engage more directly with their perspective and interests.

Sis Kandake proposed a particular focus on Rastafari education for schools. Emma Winch of the BCA responded enthusiastically to the exhibits. (In a follow-up meeting a provisional date was set for July 2016 when the exhibition would locate at the BCA with a range of live events, films, educational outreach and interactive provision.) The AES looked forward to further links with the RMM(UK), as did the PASCf, represented by Sister Jackie Lewis. The broad range of organs and Rastafari activists in attendance made the occasion impactful and helped to strengthen the RMM/RRL vision for the future.



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INTERGENERATIONAL CONFERENCE OPENING ADDRESS

Today we reflect on *Rastafari: The Majesty and the Movement*. We speak of a new milestone that brings due pride, profile and prominence to the international community. For the first time in Addis Ababa, the New Flower, the city of the great King, beautiful for situation on the sides of the north, an exhibition celebrating the Excellency of His Imperial Majesty and the Movement that is called by His Name, was enacted.

Imperial garments never revealed before in a public setting, were brought to light in a major venue, the National Museum of Ethiopia. His trod through earth was recorded. His impact on global communities and His Almighty heritage were highlighted. The histories of the people He created in His own Image were assembled and portrayed for all to behold. His fulsome glory was exhibited in earth's original and highest region. Let us over-stand the magnitude of this momentous event and the part we all play in it: not just the RMM(UK), but each and every one of InI who helped to make this possible by being part of our global community, by making up the sum total of our righteousness, by our presence here today, by our remembrance of this great occasion in the present. Together we create history. We celebrate history. We become history. InI are His story, not our own story: His-story.

There can be no complacency in our movement. Ras Tafari is the spirit of life itself. It knows no barriers or boundaries. It is a continuous and ever-living evolution of body, mind and spirit. InI are His creation. His Majesty exhorts us to become something new: angelic beings, resisting the overwhelming tendency of the age: the pettiness, the prejudice and hate that create war, the growing cancer of envy, materialism, inequality, oppression of man and woman by their fellow men and women in the human community. InI are His light in this new creation. The examples we set in our daily lives, the standards we adhere to, our words no less than our works resonate and create the future we seek. We stamp our imprint on the times as the present moves relentlessly towards the future. This is InI solemn duty: to maintain the momentum of Truth and *RAS TAFARI ROYAL LIVITY* until the words of His Imperial Majesty cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

In the words of the Psalmist: "How good and pleasant it is for InI to dwell together in perfect harmony and love." ~ Shango Baku

Commentary

The inter-generational development of the Rastafari Movement is and has been for some time a concern for the progressively minded, within the movement. To pass on the torch of this Divine culture to the younger generation has to be implemented through practical means and facilitation. Rastafari Regal Livity /RMM(UK) has embraced this as an active approach to committee business with the ongoing presence of Sis Addishiwot and supporting her own exhibition and works. Following the inter-generational conference, a radio show has been facilitated for Ras Yohannes and his peers on Majestic Radio. A newcomer to the committee is Sis Chenelle, a student who has expressed an interest in working within our video production team. ~ *Ras Cos*



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Rastafari Movement UK Reparation and Repatriation Committee (RM UK)~The Early beginnings

Prior to the RMM(UK) committee going to Ethiopia for the Exhibition a youthful lion by the name of Ras Simeon was inspired by the front cover of Ras Gabre Wold's book 'A Historical Report on The Rastafari Movement in the UK' and suggested that it was time Rasta marched again. Ras Gabre Wold responded by stating that the long standing Rastafari call for Reparations was on the table and after 'making the sound' at a Binghi gathering in West London and getting a positive response decided to attend an RMM core meeting a few weeks later to share the outline strategy. Our team endorsed the suggestion and offered moral strength and solidarity extending some practical support. Returning from Ethiopia in late May 2014 two committee members from Rastafari~The Majesty & The Movement took up official involvement with the newly formed Rastafari Movement(UK) Reparation and Repatriation Committee to strengthen the run-up to the Emancipation Day March 1st August 2014.

This protest march organisationally headed by Ras Gabre Wold, took Britain by storm and has now become legendary. The explosive spectacle of thousands marching from Brixton to the Houses of Parliament went viral. The event set a benchmark for African consciousness in Britain in terms of awareness of our latter-day history as descendants of a 400-year chapter of enslavement. The RMM(UK) production team video recorded the event and created a new exhibition panel to mark the ongoing evolution of the Rastafari Movement.

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DISCOVER SOCIETY FOCUS: WHEN BRITAIN LOVED RASTAFARI . "At its root, RasTafari is a movement of Pan-African redemption, confronting the inequities forged in the days of slavery and colonialism that continue to reverberate across physical, mental and spiritual dimensions." [From Discoversociety, Focus Issue 10 July 1 2014.]

~ Dr Shilliam's article (supported by the RMM team) recalls a time when the Prince of Peace (H.I.M.) was heralded as the Great Opponent of Fascism; when "Hail Selassie!" echoed throughout Britain as the definitive response to "Heil Hitler!"

[www.discoversociety.org/2014/07/01/focus-when-britain-loved-rastafari/](http://www.discoversociety.org/2014/07/01/focus-when-britain-loved-rastafari/)

### ~~~~~ GUILDHALL, BATH

Next stop was the city of Bath in mid-October. The RMM(UK) committee were the special invited guests at an event celebrating the **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of His Imperial Majesty being granted the Keys to the City**. The exhibition panels were displayed in the city's Guildhall amidst a gathering of local dignitaries, including the Mayor and ex-Mayoress of Bath, Friends of Fairfield House (FOFH) and the local BEMSCA group (Black and Ethnic Minority Social and Cultural Association). The exhibition then transferred to Bath Library for the following two weeks before opening at Fairfield House on 1st November 2014.



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*RMM(UK) Committee with Steve Nightingale (Chairman of Friends of Fairfield House) at the Guildhall*



### *FAIRFIELD HOUSE ~ THE MAJESTY & THE MOVEMENT EXHIBITION ~ THE GRAND UK OPENING*

After leaving the Guildhall, the Exhibition then moved on to Fairfield House. The grand opening of the RMM(UK) Exhibition at Fairfield House, former home of His Imperial Majesty during His temporary exile (1935-1941), was indeed a sumptuous event. Fairfield House has hosted Nyahbinghi gatherings on the first Saturday of every month for over a year. The activities of this special day rolled seamlessly into the November 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Coronation celebrations. As described by Ras Bandele in his opening address, this Saturday was indeed a '**Golden Sabbath**'!

The occasion was auspicious. Steve Nightingale, Chairman of 'The Friends of Fairfield House' was also expecting the attendance of the Imperial Envoy to His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Ermias Sahle Selassie, the great grandson to His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie. The envoy, Cavaliere Bonn, duly arrived with his Chief of Protocol, Lady Montague Thomas.

Ras Bandele opened proceedings with the customary praises and salutations to our God and King before introducing Steve Nightingale, who briefly outlined the purpose of 'The Friends of Fairfield'. After bowing graciously before a picture of His Imperial Majesty, Cavalier Bonn spoke next. He gave a history of his name, stating that he was 'made in Africa' as his full name implied: 'Phillip Leo Africa Bonn'. With great emotion he stated that Rastafarians represent something special, "something between God and Man". His speech, highlighting some of his family ties and his contribution to the preservation of Fairfield House, was eloquent and respectful. He ended with the presentation of a gift to Steve Nightingale - a medal that was owned by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie, which he asked to be put on display for visitors to the House.

Cavaliere Bonn then introduced Lady Montague Thomas, who also bowed before the picture of His Imperial Majesty before speaking. She stated how warmly she was received at Fairfield and that she could feel the atmosphere of love within the House. She closed by reciting the well-known speech by His Majesty, '**It is better to give than to receive**'.



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Ras Bandele, as Master of Ceremonies, then announced the formal opening of the 'Rastafari - The Majesty & The Movement Exhibition' which was situated upstairs. At his invitation Ras Cos Tafari gave an overview of the Exhibition, its successful debut and delivery in Ethiopia during May 2014, emphasising that everything created by the RMM team would remain within 'Rastafari Intellectual Property' as a long-term benefit to the community. Sis Stella Headley added a few choice remarks, describing the three-year journey of the Project to date.

The Exhibition had been tastefully curated by Dr Shawn Sobers, a long-serving committee member of the FOFH. Ras Bandele called on the drummers to situate themselves on the landing leading to the Exhibition room. Binghi drumming and chanting proceeded. Cavaliere Bonn spontaneously suggested that he call His Highness Crown Prince Ermias Sahle Selassie to address the congregation via a loudspeaker on his telephone. The Prince responded with a moving address, expressing his respect for Rastafarians and his pleasure at being represented through his Envoy. Cavaliere Bonn respectfully requested that the Prince listen to the drumming, chanting and singing of the Binghi drummers for a few minutes. Ras Bandele then uttered a prayer and blessing before the Exhibition door was opened to the general gathering.

To crown the opening ceremony in the days that followed, the RMM Committee requested that Fairfield House be deemed the formal home of the 'Rastafari: The Majesty & The Movement' Exhibition. This was agreed through the Chairman of 'The Friends of Fairfield'.

Ras Cos Wadada Tafari



(An email response to the Grand Opening)

*Greetings in the divine name of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I and Her Imperial Highness Empress Menen Asfwa in this the 84th year of the coronation. Yesterday's events were truly a great success in so many ways. As Steve said, we can look forward to much hard work but also exciting times ahead. It's time to strengthen the ties that bind us together and the Friends of Fairfield House are honoured to have you as a key partner and supporter of our works here at Fairfield.*

*Blessings  
Asher Craig ~ Treasurer ~ Friends of Fairfield House*



### Further commentaries following the Grand opening

- The Anglo Ethiopian Society and their entourage were impressed by the panels and are very keen to have a joint event with us in the future. Their diary of events is already concluded up to May 2015 but they are meeting in December to discuss their calendar plans from May 2015 onwards. In speaking with Anne Parsons the suggestion is that the joint event revolves around our Exhibition and could possibly be held at Fairfield. Other possible venues could also be explored. They wanted to know what they could bring to the event. It was suggested



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- that they could possibly tell the History of the AES (formerly the Abyssinian Society) and its efforts of solidarity with Ethiopia and His Majesty during the years of the Fascist invasion and occupation. I advised them that we have visited the AES 'Library' and are aware that there is a box of Publications and Magazines that would be good to have exposed.
- It was well blessed to see Rases Habte & Moqapi from the Rastafari Heritage. They showed us a sample of their Medal collection from their archives and provided us with leaflets showing the wealth of Stamps, Medals, Books & Crosses which they have collected since 1992. They have organised their own Exhibitions previously but cannot display at Fairfield at present because of security issues.
- Ras Rai had a fruitful conversation with Sis Asher. She has conveyed that there is an organisation in Bristol that would like to receive our Exhibition.

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"We re-launched the Tafari Gallery upstairs in Fairfield House. It is now the permanent home of Rastafari: The Majesty and the Movement exhibition when it is not out on tour. Our first visiting exhibition in 2015 is an Ethiopian Photo exhibit which runs in the House until 2nd May." *FOFH newsletter, March 2015*

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### "ROOTS" EXHIBITION ~ FAIRFIELD HOUSE, 2 KELSTON ROAD. BATH. BA1 3QJ

The title is 'Roots' because this is where I was born and raised. My hope is that through this exhibition the viewer is able to get a glimpse of my roots through my eyes.

Each picture tells a story of how people from a specific region conduct their lives. Collectively, the pictures show that irrespective of their individual cultures, everyone seems to flourish and communicate as though they are one in harmony and goodwill. It is a pleasure to share some of my roots with you. ~ *Sister Addishiwot Asfawossen*

**ETHIOPIAN PHOTO EXHIBITION**  
 Created by  
**Addishiwot Asfawosen**  
**Saturday 3rd Jan- Saturday 2nd May 2015**





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### **Commentary**

- The opening of 'Roots' exhibition proved another successful day for the RMM at Fairfield House, with visitors from the AES, Rastafari Movement(UK), Ras Tafari Heritage, a large attendance by BEMSCA elders and also a 2nd visit by the Imperial Envoy. We continued our conversations with him as he remained very open and affable. We also made links with professional fund-raiser Michael Auton, who is keen to work with RMM directly.



### **RMM(UK) EXHIBITION GOES TO BIRMINGHAM**

The RMM(UK) Exhibition in Birmingham opened formally at **The Drum on 23<sup>rd</sup> February**. Ian Sergeant, our contact at the Drum, welcomed the RMM(UK) team on arrival in Birmingham and provided light refreshments for the occasion. Brethren and sistren from the local community and members of the public viewed the exhibition and mingled informally with the RMM team. Ras Tony Roots and Lady Paulette of New Style radio station were in attendance. Brothers Habte and Moqapi of the Heritage Project were on hand to give continued support. Local poet Leon Blades reminisced on the early history of the movement in Birmingham. University student Chenelle Victor discussed her research work and possible interaction with RMM(UK). For the first time the panels were displayed in chronological sequence along the main wall of the Drum's foyer. The time-line ran from right to left in three sections separated by pillars. This afforded visitors an extended 'promenade' view of the history of Ras Tafari in the UK. After the opening the RMM team retired privately with members of the Rastafari Heritage Project to reason more deeply on the evolving Word and Works of the movement.

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February, The DRUM, Birmingham**

This second event was co-ordinated in association the New Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies. It was convened in an upstairs studio of the Drum.

A mixed audience of local Rastafari members, students and the general public attended. Ras Cos Tafari introduced the main speakers in turn beginning with Dr Robbie Shilliam, who spoke on the forgotten history of His Imperial Majesty in the UK. Ras Shango followed with a summary of the evolution of the Rastafari UK movement from the 1960s onward. Ras Habte Selassie gave an enlightening power-point presentation on the origins of the Rastafari movement and its heyday in Birmingham in the 1970s. Sis Stella focused on the links between the RMM(UK) and the RM(UK) Committee, who were responsible for the successful Emancipation Day march in August 2014. Rastafari elder Ras Gabre Wolde Adams (aka Jah Blue) who had made the journey from London was recognised for his sterling contribution to the rise of the UK movement.



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*Ras Cos introduces the audience to the evenings events*

The audience then retired to the foyer downstairs for another hour, viewing the exhibition panels and reasoning with both London and Birmingham reps on the history and contemporary state of the movement. The interest shown by young students who attended gave added value to the occasion.

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, the DRUM, Birmingham**

The finale of a trilogy of events at the Drum in Birmingham was well attended, highly inspiring and added a new dimension to the works of RRM(UK)/RRL. A capacity audience attended the film night 'livicated' to the memory of Ras Seymour Maclean. The Birmingham Rastafari attendees were joined by a coachload of activists from London, the full RMM core team, students, sympathisers and members of the general public. Introductory speakers on the night included Sister Wolete Gabriel of the Ethiopian World Federation (EWF), who recounted Ras Seymour's services over the years in his various capacities as EWF President, Vice President and Chaplain.

**Stephen Bell** who had appeared as an expert witness at Ras Seymour's trial, spoke briefly of his involvement in the landmark case. Ras Ray-I described the editing process of the film as a learning curve in a work that focused on our shared spirituality. Later, members of Ras Seymour's family added their personal memories as his son, Negus, and younger brother gave moving testimonies of his influence and legacy. The RMM(UK) documentary was highly praised by a riveted audience who were fully engaged by Ras Seymour's account of his journey into the movement as a convert who had once worked in the 'system'. He had transformed into a zealot, famed for his exploits as the 'Book Liberator'. His retelling of the Magdala story was spiced with drama, as he mimicked key figures involved in the dispute that led to Britain's invasion of 1868, and the subsequent pillage of Ethiopia's precious manuscripts, artefacts and icons, many of them still held in British museums and institutions of learning.

Note ~ Stephen Bell has spent many years involved in The Magdala Campaign working for the recovery of Ethiopia's stolen treasures to be returned to their rightful owners.



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*Sis Wolete Gabriel delivers a presentation on Ras Seymour*

In the Q+A session that followed the enthusiastic audience reasoned on a range of issues: the length of his sentence, the sites of his 'retrieval' campaign, the present whereabouts of the liberated books, issues of repatriation of looted items from other African countries, the question of Ethiopian Orthodoxy and baptism, the importance of works and unity within the movement.

It became abundantly clear (as Ras Seymour himself said) that the work of recovery was incomplete. This was unfinished business that \*AFROMET had inaugurated. It **is** incumbent upon us all to pursue the work of an outstanding activist who had committed his mature life to reclaiming property that had been sacrilegiously looted from Ethiopia's holy sites and held by Britain in contravention of international law governing the spoils of combat. The Rastafari 'blockbuster' was acclaimed as a must-see for the international community.

\*Association For the Return Of Magdala Ethiopian Treasures



*RMM(UK) with some of the attendees at the film night including Ras Seymour's family, representatives from the EWF, Rastafari Movement (UK), Rastafari Heritage, Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Sick Be Nourished*



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In an email on the 31<sup>st</sup> March John Narayan from the New Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies wrote:  
Subject: RE: Drum session in February

Hi all,

I would just like to express our thanks on the NCCCS side for all of your hard work, time and knowledge - you folks are the one who did us the favour! Both the talk and exhibition were wonderful and I hope we can do something again down the line.

Keep on building. Best wishes,  
John

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Book Reviews (a recommended read)

Visions of Zion by Erin C. MacLeod (ISBN 978-1-4798-8224-3)

Started off reading Erin MacLeod's work as 'erring' and 'cloudy'. However the latter chapters evinced a more piercing and scholarly analysis of the intriguing complexities of inter-relationship between Rastafari vision/expectations/experiences and the concept of 'Ethiopian-ness' - which is also a multi-layered, dynamically changing and fluid reality. Perhaps the work reflects the author's navigation of uncharted ethnographic territory and her final humble arrival at a point of descriptive rather than authoritative persuasion. With extensive quotes from key activists such as Ras Tagassa, Priest Paul, Desta Meghoo, Ijahnya Christian, *et al*, *Visions of Zion* gives an outsider's view of the intractable positioning of Shashemane's residents - repatriates and Ethiopians - in a unique contestation of space, identity and citizenship. The work resonates beyond its stated framework and projects a template for interrogating themes of immigration, migration, repatriation and Diaspora in the modern world. ~ SB

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### **Black Pacific** by Robbie Shilliam (available free from the publishers 'now')

The book is about the deep ties that bind the indigenous struggles of the South Pacific and the liberation struggles of Africans - diasporic and continental.

<http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/the-black-pacific-9781472519252/>

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Report from recent visit to Jamaica

I visited Jamaica in early April 2015 and was able to strengthen links with a few key personalities in the Rastafari community.

In reasoning with Ras Jahlan Niah at UWI's Mona Campus he commended the organisational astuteness of the UK contingent's contribution to the Ethiopian Exhibition in May 2014. A symposium is being planned for Jamaica in 2016 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of His Majesty visiting Jamaica and I mentioned that we would welcome the opportunity to bring the 'Rastafari~The Majesty & The Movement (UK)' Exhibition to Jamaica, along with keynote speakers to impact positively on the occasion. Dr Jahlan welcomed this suggestion and proposed that we become involved in an international co-



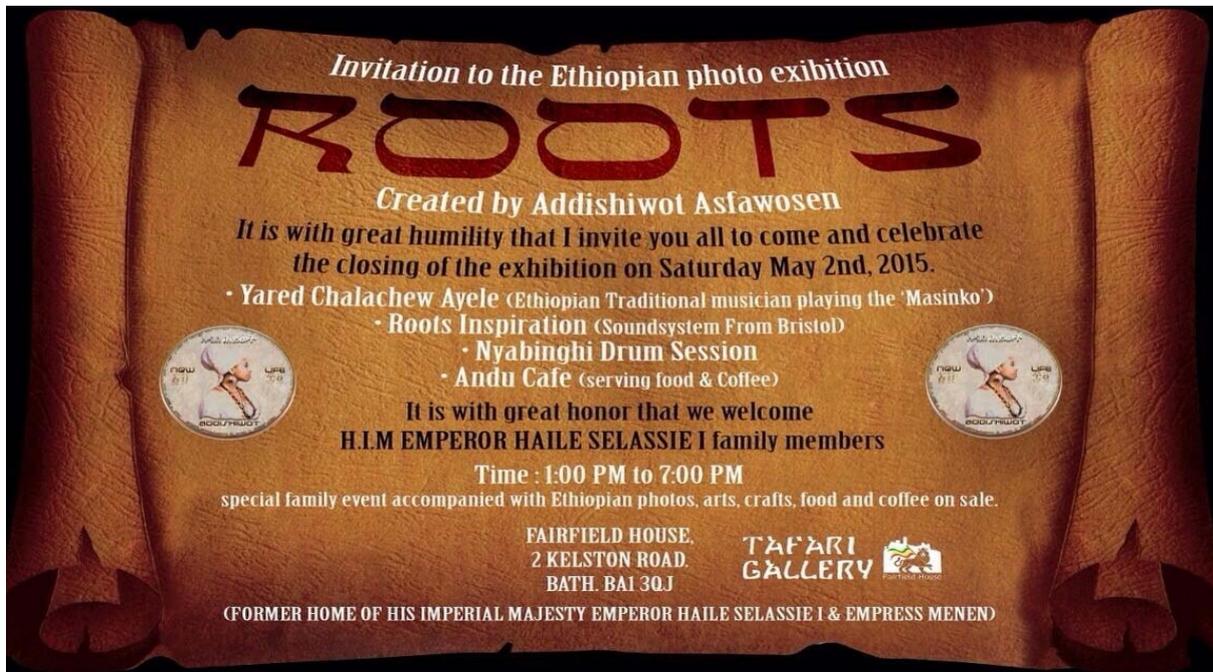
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ordinating body to be assembled. We agreed to continue communications towards this objective.

Fortuitously, I was able to arrange a brief meeting with Ras Ivi who warmly welcomed the strengthening of crucial links between the UK and JA movements. I presented Ras Ivy with a pre-release copy of Rastafari Regal Livity's first film production featuring Ras Seymour.

Following on from several telephone calls I arranged to meet with Ras Flako in Montego Bay the day before my departure from Jamaica. Rastafari Regal Livity has been making recent contributions to the document 'The Rastafari Code of Conduct' and this was reviewed and reasoned upon with a view to further input.

*Ras Cos Wadada
April 13 2015*



Fairfield House was packed with visitors for the much publicised closing of the 'Roots Exhibition' that attracted members of His Imperial Majesty's family most notably HRH Prince Mikael Makonen, His Imperial Majesty's grandson. Attendees came from London, Birmingham, Luton, Bath, Bristol, Derby and even Holland to experience this regal event organised in conjunction with 'The friends of Fairfield House'. Sis Addishiwot had arranged for Ethiopian Priests, Ethiopian food & drink, singers and players of instruments and a small sound System from Bristol to be present.

The formal proceedings MC'd by Dr Shawn Sobers opened with blessing from the contingent of Ethiopian Priests followed by an emotional speech by the Host for the event



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Sis Addishiwot Asfawossen. This was followed by some evocative Masinko playing by invited musician Yared which was very emotional for the Ethiopian family. Prince Mikael delivered a moving speech re-counting his family life with His Imperial Majesty and the sadness of the Red Terror experience when members of the Royal family were jailed. He applauded Sis Addishiwot and the organisers efforts. The imperial Envoy Cavaliere Bonn delivered a speech on behalf of the Crown Prince Ermias Sahle Selassie who is based in America . The Prince of Montenegro delivered a passionate speech stating that the orthodox faith binded the two nations and he wished to see the day when the Ethiopian Royal Family returned in Ethiopia to rousing applause from the audience. Steve Nightingale Chairman of friends of Fairfield, delivered a short speech and on this occasion Sis Pauline was invited to give a speech based on her 20 years of service to Fairfield. She was introduced as our own 'Iron Lady' for her years of devotion and commitment to Fairfield House and her spontaneous delivery was seasoned with humour.



Sis Addishiwot with HRH Prince Mikael Makonnen

Sis Addishiwot Profile ~ Addishiwot, which means “New Life”, is a self-employed Photographer, Jeweller and Clothing Designer and Manufacturer born in Arba Minch, the southern part of Ethiopia.

“I graduated in photography and videography. As a pioneer photographer I have taken several pictures from my own country that I think will introduce to people in the world to the history, culture and belief of the people of Ethiopia. This is the main reason that I brought out my pictures for exhibition rather than keeping them locked away. I am hoping that this exhibition will give some information about my ancient Christian country ornamented with beautiful landscape historical monuments, culture and natural resources.

Previously I had shown my exhibitions at the following places and respective dates ~ Spain, 2009 at Centro cultural de Los Cristiano’s in Tenerife 20th of May – 2nd of June 2009.~ Brussels Belgium 2012 at Kokob Ethiopian restaurant 2nd January- 31st January 2012. Now this is my **3rd exhibition Fairfield House, Bath, UK**. This project opened on 3rd January and closed on the 2nd of May 2015.



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The main aim of the exhibition is to show the objective reality of my country with my camera and trying to let the people of the world understand this reality in a better way so as to expunge the wrong perception that had been induced in their minds during the previous famine period.

I am inspired to prepare this exhibition to show and inform people of other countries and the Ethiopians who had been away from their home country for a long time, about my beautiful country, people's culture, religion and history through pictures that I took myself. I have observed that many people have never been to Ethiopia so this exhibition gives them an idea about Ethiopia and it also gives me a big lesson to foresee what to do in my future endeavors in preparing such type of events. I am very grateful and honored to get this venue which is the Ethiopian Emperor's former home. Many of my visitors expressed their pleasure by saying that as an Ethiopian photographer it is a great honor to do this exhibition here."

FOR FURTHER INFO CONTACT: Addisihwot Asfawosen: 07926 428969: Or email hiwotaddis@yahoo.com
wafamabatik@gmail.com

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**Stop Press ~ The Anglo Ethiopian Society in conjunction with Rastafari Regal Livity hosted a discussion evening on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July at The School of Oriental & African studies (SOAS) Room B102 @ 7.00pm entitled..... 'When Britain Loved King Ras Tafari' ~ Keynote speaker Dr Robbie Shilliam**

"The historical record has yet to fully document the support given by the British public to Emperor Haile Selassie I and the Ethiopian cause during the war against Italian fascism in the mid 1930s. Surprisingly, perhaps, white supporters of Selassie I were legion and from all walks of society. They joined with African subjects of the British Empire to denounce Mussolini as well as their own government's inaction. But what was the extent of this support? What were the reasons for it? And what were the ideological tensions between white and African supporters?"

### **Review**

On Wednesday 22nd July Dr Robbie Shilliam delivered a researched paper on the Ethio-Italian conflict that precipitated World War II. The event was hosted at SOAS by the Anglo Ethiopian Society, 'descendants' of the Friends of Abyssinia who had supported His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I during His exile in Britain.

Punctuated by power-point photos of a bygone era, Dr Shilliam's lecture interrogated the terms of 'Englishness' and 'Britishness' within the context of the times, and the positions of sympathy and antipathy directed towards Ethiopia and His Imperial Majesty during the Fascist invasion. Were the responses of decency, human rights and fair play touted by the British government merely age-old mantras of moral supremacy? Was there an undercurrent of perfidy and double-dealing behind the establishment's apparent support for Ethiopia? And what of the colonial masses and ordinary people of conscience who were ranged on the side of the threatened African State? How did their views compare/conflict with the policies



## ***Ras Tafari ~ The Majesty & The Movement (UK)***

and declarations emanating from the ruling British hierarchy? What was the connection between these events and the nascent Rastafari movement in Britain in the 1970's?

Dr Shilliam's searching presentation navigated these uncharted waters with a level of candour and intellectual rigour that held his mixed audience riveted for almost an hour. Questions on the Emperor's reputed snubbing of Garvey, and the global reparations focus were adequately answered in the Q+A; but the wily lecturer neatly side-stepped answers on the much-publicized Nazi salute of the young princess Elizabeth in 1933.

Rastafari Regal Livity and The Majesty and the Movement exhibition were duly accredited as the context that motivated his research. Hopefully this stimulating expose of forgotten history will give substance to the current debate on reparation and international morality.



### **Newsletter Summary**

*Rastafari Regal Livity's* first project *Rastafari: The Majesty and the Movement Exhibition* has become a living road-show, inspiring regional UK communities to re-assess the contribution of Rastafari to social progress and moral rearmament in today's world. A broad momentum of interest has being generated around the Project, opening up new avenues for exploring the Rastafari experience and rekindling the latent fires of protest and positivity that once energized the movement as a frontline force in Babylon's heartland. Bristol, Liverpool and other major UK cities are likely targets for the future. Links with Rastafari Houses and Mansions are being reinforced to consolidate the sacred goal of unification. Vibrant partnerships are constantly extending the reach of the project to audiences of all persuasions. A third phase of international touring looms in the not-too-distant future, with Holland and Jamaica as a real possibility for August 2016.

InI give thanks for the guidance of His Imperial Majesty and Empress Menen in safeguarding the journey of *The Majesty and the Movement* to this date and for the time to come.

*"History doesn't forget but man can. He can also forgive if he is kind-hearted. And we strive to be kind. Yes, We have forgiven but not forgotten. No, not forgotten. We remember everything. Everything."* Emperor Haile Selassie 1 of Ethiopia, 1973.

Shango Baku





## Ras Tafari ~ The Majesty & The Movement (UK)



Closing words by Ras Cos Tafari ~ Chairman

Rastafari Greetings within the spirit of cultural Oneness and Divine Love exemplified by His Imperial Majesty Qadamawi Haile Selassie I with the feminine balance of Her Imperial Majesty Empress Menen. Acknowledgements also to the countless righteous Ancestors.

As recorded in this Newsletter, many significant events have been staged by 'Rastafari Regal Livility' and the RMM(UK) committee, based on invitations that are consistently made for the Exhibition to be displayed, following our return from Ethiopia. The parent CIC Company Rastafari Regal Livility has been placed at the forefront of all activities going forward. 'Ras Tafari ~The Majesty & The Movement (UK)' refers specifically to the Exhibition panels as mutually agreed with our counterpart Dr. Desta Meghoo in Ethiopia. Our links with Ethiopia remain strong and regular contact is maintained.

It cannot be understated that the positive potential and re-energisation released into the UK Rastafari community since 2012, is ever- expanding. The team harnessed the idea brought to I an I from Ethiopia, honed the administrative framework, refined and implemented its delivery overcoming all obstacles spiritual and material. It is with complete relevance that the idea was brought to us from Ethiopia as *Ethiopia has always been a source of the continuing freedom of our peoples.* The idea of the Reparations march that took place on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 and has become world acclaimed, was endorsed by the core team of Rastafari~The Majesty & The Movement(UK). Ras Gabre Wold is an early member of RMM(UK) and currently a Patron.

Following my recent visit to Jamaica, and Sis Addishiwot's closing 'Roots' exhibition at Fairfield House, networks were strengthened and both Jamaica and Holland are now within our scope . An exhibition tour of Ghana still remains within the original scope of Dr. Desta Meghoo in Ethiopia and the creation of a new Children Arts Centre and permanent Rastafari Museum in Addis Ababa is the subject of current negotiations. I an I continue to give thanks and acknowledge the organisational unifying support of the *NNC(UK), Rastafari Movement (UK), Rastafari Heritage, The Friends of Fairfield House, The Anglo Ethiopian Society, Sick Be Nourished Project, PASCF, Neil Kenlock, Majestic Radio, Arkology Studios, Web Studios, The Tabernacle and EWF* community in Shashamane Ethiopia and Dr Desta Meghoo in Addis Ababa.

***"No nation can divide within itself and remain powerful.....To meet together, to take counsel with one another and to act in mutual co-operation, has proved a most fruitful method, both in secular and spiritual fields. Henceforth the way is open to follow this path" ~ His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I***

Ras Cos Wadada Tafari

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