



**Press Release**  
24 January 2003

### **Caribbean *Memories* Exhibition Moves to The National Archives in Kew**

An exciting exhibition, which celebrates the journeys and experiences of Caribbean immigrants is now on display in The National Archives.

*Memories from the Islands* is a fascinating exhibition which is the result of a partnership between The National Archives, the online project, *Moving Here* and members of Haringey's local community. Photographs taken between 1945 and 1965 are brought to life by the memories of Caribbean immigrants who lived through that period. The exhibition is free and will take place between Saturday 18 January and Wednesday 26 February.

Sara Griffiths Outreach Coordinator for *Moving Here* at the TNA said that the project had something for everyone. She described it as 'a privilege to work with a community group that cares passionately about their heritage and its representation to younger generations'.

Professor Mary Chamberlain, one of Britain's leading researchers and writers about migration to and from Britain will also be giving a lecture about the experiences of people from the Caribbean islands who came to Britain to start new lives in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Using archive sources and oral history interviews, Professor Chamberlain will unravel their amazing stories. Many documents from this era are available at the TNA, including the passenger list from the *SS Empire Windrush*, the vessel which carried the first large consignment of immigrants from the Caribbean. This event will take place on Thursday 30 January at 7:00pm and last approximately 1 hour. Tickets cost £5 and concessions are £4.

Another hugely popular event on the Caribbean theme is a costumed performance about the remarkable life and travels of a contemporary of Florence Nightingale, the Jamaican nurse Mary Seacole (1805-1881). Mary will tell her own story, re-living her upbringing in the Caribbean, her rejection by the British medical authorities, her determination to save lives in the Crimea and her return to 19<sup>th</sup> century London as a national heroine.

This event is now fully booked, but there are many more themed events planned for 2003, the next series focusing on Samuel Pepys, *The Bawdy Civil Servant*.

The Public Record Office, which will become the National Archives on April 1<sup>st</sup>, is the archive of the country's most important documents. It holds records from the 11<sup>th</sup> century to the present day and is an important port of call for historical research as well as an invaluable family history resource. Documents held at the TNA include the world renowned Domesday Book and William Shakespeare's will.

The TNA is open to the public free of charge 6 days a week. For more information please contact the Interpretation Team at the TNA; tel: 020 8392 5202/5323, fax: 020 8392 5345, e-mail: [events@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:events@nationalarchives.gov.uk) , website: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/events/>