



# Celebrating 40 yrs in Publishing

## Community Awards & Tributes 2010

---

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November, all roads led to the Park Lane Hilton for over 600 guests. The occasion was a Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony supported by the Silver Star Charity to commemorate and celebrate the forty years of Hansib Publishing as a publishing house.



Hansib Publishing is a family owned and run business that has survived forty years & several recessions which makes this milestone commendable, historic and worthy of celebration. Throughout these forty years, Hansib has reflected

and chronicled the struggles and achievements, the turmoils and frustrations, the hopes and dreams of Britain's minority communities.

Keith Bennett, in the commemorative brochure, stated that the history of Hansib is the history of Britain's minority communities and vice versa.

Hansib's birth and development reflected both the commercial acumen and social conscience of its founder, Arif Ali, who, with his irrepressible personality, drive and charm, has been and remains at the helm of Hansib throughout these last four decades.

As is typical of Arif's personal style, he convened a group of former colleagues and supporters to form a Planning Committee with a specific brief to plan and manage a memorable and enjoyable event that would target recognised individuals and organisations, as

opposed to celebrities, to be given a Hansib Community Award.

This Planning Committee was led by Ansel Wong and included Juliet Alexander, Abiola Johnson, Josephine Learmond-Criqui, Alex Pascal, Kingsley Abrams, Esmond Bunsie, Mia Morris, Yasmin Chandra Singh, Rod Leon, Jenni Francis and Emerson Braithwaite.

They were joined on the night by Hansib's extended family members, xxx Johnson, xxx Johnson and Ray Hendricks.

### **Hansib Community Awards**

Hansib's Community Awards began its gestation in 1973 and represents public and peer recognition of those who, against the odds, have achieved much for themselves & for others and who continue to show their commitment in the political, cultural, commercial, sporting and entertainment fields.

Since 1973, awards have been made to over 180 individuals and organisations and all of these awardees were recognised in the brochure.

For the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the plan was to have three strands – the first was to recall and remind ourselves of the 180 individuals and organisations who were the recipients of previous awards, the second to pay homage posthumously to a selected number of individuals and the third was to identify 40 individuals and organisations, not previously recognised, for a Community Award; one for each of the forty years of Hansib's existence.

## A Posthumous Tribute

This tribute was restricted to acknowledging those individuals, particularly ones having some association with Hansib, who by their own personal actions and achievements have contributed to the shaping of our society and left memories, legacies and inspiration for all of us.

Tributes were given by a roll call of 114 individuals ending with a resounding round of applause by guests.

Hansib acknowledged the limitations of the list and gave an assurance to continue capturing the data on all qualifying individuals so that each year a verified list will be compiled until each person is identified, fully acknowledged and their personal narrative recorded.

Guests were invited to nominate individuals in the expectation that a Grand Ceremony to pay tribute to another roll call list will be held in 2012 before the Olympics.

Nominations should be sent to: [tributes@hansib-books.com](mailto:tributes@hansib-books.com).

## Community Awards 2010

Though forty individuals and organisations were selected to receive awards, Hansib Awards are not given to anyone not being physically present at the ceremony unless there are overwhelming considerations that prevented attendance. Awards were given to 32 individuals and three organisations as five original awardees were unable to attend; one of whom attended but had to leave before the presentation ceremony due to illness.

These 35 awardees were selected because they met the following criteria:

- Through political, social and entrepreneurial engagement made seminal contributions to the protection, development and promotion of the UK's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities
- Was a leading contributor in the creation and development of central, communal and combative institutions within the BAME communities

- Notwithstanding the multiple challenges facing individuals, was able to achieve personal success at stand as an exemplar for others.



The 2010 Awards were given to each person for the following achievements:

### **Akbar Alli**

For his record of public service and unselfish dedication to assist others.

### **Alastair Soyode**

For his visionary outlook, business achievements and continuing commitment to his community.

### **Anne Braithwaite**

For her unselfish and sustained commitment and engagement with her community.

### **Augustine John**

For sustained and uncompromising championing of race equality.

### **Barry Sukhram**

For a long and distinguished record of political activism.

### **Beverly Isadore Lindsay**

For services to enterprise and business development and pioneering work for the voluntary sector in Birmingham.

### **Bhanu Choudhrie**

For his dynamic and diverse business successes.

### **C.B. Patel**

For his stewardship of Gujarat Samachar and its English language sister, Asian Voice.

### **Caribbean Indian Dance Company**

For pioneering and innovative promotion of Indo-Caribbean dance.

### **Chris Mullard**

Successful, sustained and unique engagement in every facet of UK society.

### **Clarence Thompson**

Unselfish devotion to community development and leadership.

### **Claude Brooks**

Former Chairman of the West Indian Standing Conference and agent for artists.

**Collin Carter**

For developing many community Groups and Business Organisations.

**Corrine Skinner-Carter**

For an impressive and extended engagement in the arts.

**Donald Hinds**

For continuous and meritorious service and for occupying a pivotal position in the development of the London Carnival.

**Doreen Lawrence**

For her tireless work with young people and unselfish service on several agencies.

**George Martin**

For success in business development and community development.

**Geraldine Connor**

For promoting social regeneration through education and artistic practice.

**Gloria Mills**

For a distinguished career as a champion of equality.

**Goolam Meeran**

For services to the administration of justice.

**Harry & Shirley Beharry**

For their exemplary business success and for maintaining loyal family ties.

**Harry Persaud**

For services to business man and a generous supporter of young people.

**Joseph Whitter**

For unparalleled success in business.

**Karen Chouhan**

Contribution to the struggle for race equality, inclusion and social justice.

**Mary Seacole Memorial Association**

For campaigning for the recognition of Mary Seacole.

**Laurent Phillpotts**

For meritorious services.

**Mike Saywack**

For exemplary corporate social responsibility.

**Phil Sealy**

For sustained leadership in race equality.

**The Queen's College of Guyana Association (UK)**

The oldest secondary school in Guyana.

**Rehana Minhas**

For championing equality and improving outcomes for children and young people.

**Rod Westmaas**

For services to the community and the arts.

**Victor Crichlow**

For services to BAME communities.

**Victor Page**

For leadership and generating hope.

**Vino Patel**

For achievements in the travel business serving the Caribbean Diaspora.

**Performances**

During dinner an excellent cabaret featuring the very best of Caribbean entertainers was enjoyed by all. The diverse dance and musical styles included reggae from Deloris Francis, Limbo and Bamboo Dancing from the Creative Learning Circuit, steel band music from the Mangrove Steel Orchestra, Indo-Caribbean Dance from the Caribbean Indian Dance Company, calypso from Alexander D Great, urban jazz from Flautist Keith Waithe and Opera from Neil Latchman accompanied by Corinne Morris and Harriet Adie.

Two of the performances were specifically commissioned to underscore the focus of the whole event. During the 40 years of Hansib publishing there have been several events that have either shaped our history or by their very significance, marked a major milestone. One aspect relates to the murders of Blair Peach, David Oluwale, Stephen Lawrence, Aktar Ali Beg and Kelso Cochrane whose murder led to the Notting Hill riots. 2010 Soca Monarch, Alexander D Great, performed his own composition commemorating the murder of Kelso Cochrane.

The second bespoke performance was Neil Latchman's whose operatic virtuosity set the tone for the solemnity of the roll call of the posthumous tributees. Neil sang Ave Maria and this was followed by the Hansib Hosts reciting the names of over 100 individuals who have passed on.

An added feature on the night was the impromptu performance by xxxx Charles on the harmonica serenading June Baden-Semper who celebrated her birthday on the night.

Other announcements and acknowledgements on the night included:

- Operation Futureproof whose mission is to raise £1.5m to build a 'quakeproof' children's centre in Haiti.
- The Queen Mother Moore School preparing to submit an application to set up a full-time independent free school under the government's new education proposals.
- Direct from Jamaica, Arthur & Cherry Byfield who both played a significant part in shaping and developing Manchester's black community in the 1960's.
- The participation in a charity bike ride by Andrew Ramroop in India to raise money for the British Heart Foundation.
- The pioneering work undertaken by Suresh Rambaran (Prostrate Cancer), Arthur France (Leeds Carnival), Narendra Makanji (Black History Month) and Sybil Phoenix (Homeless Girls).

Before the final course was served, diners were introduced to a number of Hansib authors who were launching their titles that night. The titles launched were:

*The History of Caribbean Publishing in Britain* by Martin & Asher Hoyles

This book traces the tradition of Caribbean publishing in Britain starting in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*What being black is and what being black isn't* by Jacob Whittingham

One of the characters in this book admonishes Benjamin by saying "... you kids don't realise how much you'd actually learn if you observed the world, instead of running up in it all the time." And this is what this hard hitting publication does; offers us an opportunity to learn through some acute and telling observations of our world.

*Goodbye Mango Sergeant* by Keith Walker

This is a memoir of a Jamaican boy tracing his journey from the dusty ghettos of Trench Town to London's swinging sixties proving that something good can, indeed, come out from Trench Town.

*Pardner Money Stories* by Deanne Heron

This is a collection of short stories, very much reminiscent of Samuel Selvon's *Lonely Londoners*, that takes a whimsical look at life within an extended Jamaican family in Britain.

*Under Basil Leaves* by Paulette Ramsay

This first anthology of poems expose the social codes and cloaks of respectability we all inhabit and Paulette does this with disarming style that uses words that reflect her love for "their sounds, their denotations and connotations."

*Growing Out* by Barbara Blake Hannah

This is the biography of Britain's first black TV journalist that traces her life in Britain in the 1960s. It speaks directly to black people of a "skinny little Black girl" that made good in England.

*Rum, Rivalry & Resistance* by Tony Talburt

No other spirit beverage encapsulates the essence of Caribbean social and cultural atmosphere quite like rum. Dr Tony Talburt shows how this popular Caribbean spirit beverage not only has a social and cultural significance but has also been the subject of a number of political decisions by governments in the Caribbean, the USA and Europe.

**Silver Star Charity**

Hansib acknowledged the support from the Silver Star Charity and invited all guests to contribute to its work of raising awareness of diabetes in the UK's BAME communities.

Guests were able to do so by having photos taken with wax models of Sachin Tendulkar, Whopie Goldberg and Muhammed Ali. The models were generously donated by Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum.

Silver Star also conducted throughout dinner a continuous raffle offering over 13 prizes.

One of the features of the Silver Star Charity is its use of Mobile Diabetes Units (MBU) that tour the UK's major cities offering free diabetes testing. A mobile unit was

positioned outside the hotel so guests were able to see the services offered at first hand.

### Special Address

A special address was given by the Rt. Hon Keith Vaz MP who is one of the founders of the Silver Star Charity. Keith has a distinguished career as an MP, member of government and champion of the BAME communities throughout the UK. His address to the diners was on the importance of publishing in our community.

At the end of his address, Arif presented a special award to Keith.

### Special Awards

Three special awards were made on the night.

#### *Black History Month Award*

The first award was presented by Arif Ali himself to Ansel Wong and Akyaaba Addai-Sebo to honour the part they played in establishing Black History Month in the UK.

1 October 1987 was the first Black History Month in the UK.

It was Ansel Wong as Head of the Race Equality Group and Akyaaba Addai-Sebo, his Policy Team Leader, supported by Linda Bellows and Narendra Makanji that succeeded in getting seven local authorities in London to declare the period from August 1987 to July 1988 African Jubilee Year with the month of October designated as **Black History Month**.

African Jubilee Year was a celebration of the centenary of Marcus Garvey's Birth, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the 150th anniversary of emancipation in the Caribbean.

If it was not for the efforts of these two men, we would not be celebrating October as Black History Month today.

After surprising Keith by presenting him with an award, it was Arif's turn to be surprised. Two special awards were presented to Arif on behalf of the two major constituencies that he served for over 40 years.

#### *Black Businesses Award*

The first special award to Arif Ali was presented by Uday K Dholakia, the Vice-President of Leicestershire Asian Business Association.

#### *Black Communities Award*

The second special award to Arif Ali was presented on behalf of the communities served and championed by both Hansib and Arif.

Arif occupies a pivotal position in our hearts for his integrity, bullish and uncompromising behaviour, his determination to realise his goals even in the face of imminent adversity and his very generous gestures and caring approach when dealing with our community and all of us as individuals.

His journey from Danielstown, Guyana to Watton at Stone, Hertfordshire had a steady momentum and a focused thrust that is in stark contrast to others who has had meteoritic rises to popular and state recognition. Arif has not sought any such accolades preferring instead to broker genuine relationships with all communities and organisations, pioneer and champion programmes aimed at addressing inequalities and unfairness, confront head on what he called 'social hooliganism', intervene with donations and representation to nurture fledging efforts at self-determination and at the same time rewarding loyalty, talent and commitment.

Akyaaba Addai-Sebo & Oma Ramroop presented the Black Community Award to Arif in recognition of all he has done for us.

### Personal Tributes Received

"I applaud your tenacity, your magnificent work in the print world, your contribution to the community. The recent publication 'Jamaica – Absolutely' is an excellent testament."

Dr Victor Page JP OD

"By any standard this is a very impressive record and I know from personal experience the benefits it has brought to the development of the country's Black Asian and others ethnic communities."

Baroness Howells of St Davids OBE

"Thank you for all your kindness over the years. Lots of love."

Zerbanoo Gifford, The ASHA Centre

“What a great event you have organised. A tribute to your staying power as well dedicated commitment to struggle, sustainability and success.”

Lord Ouseley of Peckham Rye

“Your publications have many times helped to buoy up my Caribbean spirits many times. I wish you and all concerned continued success – an admirer.”

Nadia Cattouse

“Congratulations for the 4 decades of your publishing legacy.”

Professor Ujjwal K Chowdhury

Managing Editor, New Global Indian

“May I congratulate you on your successful achievement and wish Hansib many more years of success.”

Lawrence Lee

Witney Oxfordshire

“The Martin family extends our congratulations to Hansib Publications for the four decades of educating and bringing of the world into our homes by your publications. Your last set of books on the history of the Caribbean gave us a small insight of the region. We thank you and your staff for your generosity and continuing efforts to make a meaningful contribution to our communities.”

George & Cynthia Martin

Arif Ali has managed to skilfully ride the roughest waves in his desire to be successful in his endeavours, irrespective of the economic and political challenge we all endured during the last forty years. Essential to Arif’s vibrant personality is his desire for our community to be altered and improved for later generations.

Alex Pascal OBE

“Hansib’s publications have provided leadership, intellectual rigour and a celebration of the historical and contemporary talent of the African, Asian and Caribbean communities.”

Rehana Minhas

Strategic Manager – Equalities

Education Leeds