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# APPENDIXES

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# REMEMBERING OLIVE COLLECTIVE OLIVE MORRIS COLLECTION AT LAMBETH ARCHIVES

Supported by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant raised by Lambeth Archives and Gasworks, the Remembering Olive Collective (ROC) has created a public collection at Lambeth Archives, composed of Olive Morris's personal documents deposited by Liz Obi, and a series of oral history interviews. ROC members were trained in oral history interviewing, transcribing and in archiving and cataloguing. The Olive Morris Collection was launched with an event at Brixton Library on Wednesday 21 October 2009.

ROC members who conducted the interviews and catalogued the Collection:

Ego Ahaiwe, Emma Abotsi, Emma Allotey, Sonia Boyce, Carolyn, Anna Colin, Rakhee Kewada, Nadja Middleton, Alexandra Molano, Altair Roelants, Ana Laura López de la Torre, Sheila Ruiz, Kimberly Springer, Anne Ward, Claudia Wegener, Ashley Whitfield.

Additional transcribers:

Tara Alturi, Susannah Broughton, Kate Duncan, Tanisha Ford, Ella Gibbs, Jaqueline Hoang-Nguyen, Julia Morandiera, Rashmi Munikempanna, Jessica Mustachi, Juliette Myers.

# ORAL HISTORY PROJECT ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The following people have contributed their memories to the Oral History project:

**Elizabeth Anionwu** knew Olive from the year she spent studying in Manchester. She is Vice-Chair of the Mary Seacole Memorial Statue Appeal. She is also Head of the Mary Seacole Centre for Nursing Practice at Thames Valley University.

**Hurlington Armstrong** was a friend of Olive and they went out together for a while when they were young. Hurely was a rank-and-file member of the Brixton Black Panthers. He now owns a wine bar on Coldharbour Lane.

**Gerlin Bean** has been active in black, community and women's politics since the late 1960s. She was a founding member of the Brixton Black Women's Group. After living in London, she moved to Zimbabwe before returning to Jamaica for good to work with 3D Projects, a community-based rehabilitation programme.

**Linda Bellos** was elected as a Labour councillor for Lambeth in 1985 and became leader of the council between 1986 and 1988. She was the second black woman to become leader of a British local authority. She now runs her own consultancy, Diversity Solutions Ltd, together with her partner, Caroline Jones.

**Mavis Best** knew Olive from their common involvement in a range of campaigns and organisations. Culminating in her position as Labour councillor for the Ferrier Ward in Greenwich in 1998, Mavis has a long history of activism. In 1977, along with other women, embarked on a successful campaign to repeal the infamous "Sus" Law.

**Michael Cadette** has been a social, political and cultural activist since the 1970s. He has been a DJ, a member of Creation for Liberation and the Race Today Collective, as well as assistant to C.L.R James. He is currently completing his MA in Psychoanalytical Studies at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

**Danni DaCosta** was a member of the Brixton Black Panther Movement where he met Olive Morris. He trained as a photographer helping his friend Neil Kenlock who was the official photographer of the Panthers. Danni worked for many years as a mechanical engineer and now runs his own photographic studio in Herne Hill.

**Stella Dadzie** see "Contributors" page.

**Wilma Dean** met Olive in Manchester University, where she enrolled to read Law one year after Olive's started her studies. They lived together at the Aspinall Road flat in Rusholme, and in the summer of 1977 they went on holiday to Italy together. Wilma Dean is now a practising lawyer specialising in family law and welfare and credits Olive with helping her get her first job in the industry by introducing her to a firm of solicitors in London.

**Farrukh Dhondy** was part of the leadership of the Black Panther Movement and is now a renowned writer of books for children, young adults and adults. Dhondy is also a playwright, a biographer (of C.L.R James, 2001) and a former media executive (Channel Four Commissioning Editor for Multicultural Programmes, 1984-97).

**Elouise Edwards** was a founder member of the Manchester Black Women's Mutual Aid, alongside Olive Morris, Kath Locke and other women. Elouise worked for many years at the Family Advice Centre in Moss Side, a centre that provided local families an essential free support service.

**Aneez Esmail** worked with Olive Morris in the Overseas Students Campaign to abolish increased fees for overseas students which mainly affected students from the former British colonies. He is a Professor of General Practice at the University of Manchester

and the Associate Vice-President for Equality and Diversity. He also directs the Masters in Public Health Programme at the University.

**Sandra Hurst** met Olive in the early 1970s, when she moved with her partner and children to the 121 Railton Road squat. There she was involved in setting up the Sabarr Bookshop. She was a founding member of Black Roof Housing Co-op, who started its life as a community organisation to defend the right of a community of black squatters. She is a trained lawyer specialising in financial literacy for people of African descent.

**Paul Kelemen** was a Sociology lecturer at Manchester University when Olive Morris studied there. He was a close friend and spoke at her memorial service at the Abeng Centre. He is currently a governor at a secondary school in a deprived area of Sheffield and sits on the board of trustees of the Ahmed Iqbal Race Relations Resource Centre.

**Neil Kenlock** see "Contributors" page.

**Sophia Kokkinos** was a friend of Olive Morris. She used to socialise with Olive, but was not directly involved in the political activism of the time.

**Jennifer Lewis** (Morris) is one of Olive Morris' two sisters, and in the 1970s lived with Olive at the Talma Road squat. She now works for the NHS.

**Judith Lockhart** was a member of Brixton Black Women's Group and OWAAD and that is where she met Olive. Judith is now an independent health and social care consultant specialising in mental health.

**Suzy Mackie** joined the Abeng Youth Club summer project where she became a part-time youth worker thanks to an invitation from Olive. She ran silk screen-printing, arts and crafts workshops. She was on the management committee of Lambeth Young Women's Project from 1986-1990. Suzy is now an independent trainer and consultant, specialised in social care, sexual health, looked after children and young people.

**Michael McColgan** was the partner of Olive Morris for over ten years. He was a German lecturer at Sheffield University when they met and was involved in many political campaigns together with Olive, with whom he also shared many travels. Mike was at her bedside when she died, and for many years was the custodian of Olive's personal documents which are now part of the Olive Morris Collection at Lambeth Archives. He now works as a solicitor, and sits in the board of Liberty.

**Basil Morris** is the older brother of the five remaining Morris siblings. He is a qualified Clinical and Pastoral Counsellor.

**Mia Morris** runs the websites [black-history-month.co.uk](http://black-history-month.co.uk), [international-womens-month.co.uk](http://international-womens-month.co.uk) and [wellplaced.co.uk](http://wellplaced.co.uk) as well as the award winning publication *Black History 365*. She co-ordinates the Black Cultural Archives' oral history project called *Heart of the Race: Oral Histories of the Black Women's Movement*.

**Maria Noble** met Olive Morris in Manchester in the academic year 1974-5. Maria was an activist in the Pan-African, women's, student and black people's movements. During the 1980s, she was a member of Abasindi Black Women's Co-operative and the Black Women's Mutual Aid, and campaigned on issues such as anti-deportation and education. Maria has worked in the fields of education as a guidance counsellor and as an advisor on education policy and equal opportunities.

**Devon Thomas'** work as a community activist brought him into close acquaintance with Olive Morris, and they worked together in many campaigns. In the early 1980s he worked for Lambeth Council, creating temporary jobs for the unemployed, being only one of two black people in management positions in the council. He is a recognised entrepreneur and community leader.

**Lindiwe Tsele** is a retired community activist. Originally from South Africa, she came to live in England in 1960. She met Olive whilst living in Manchester in the academic year 1975-6 where she worked as a manager for the Manchester Black Women's Co-op. She also worked with the Brixton Black Women's Group and Camden Black Sisters.

**George Walters** knew Olive and other members of the Morris family. Olive used to play dominoes with him in Brixton Domino Club, of which he is still a member.

**Diane Watt** see "Contributors" page.

**Oniel Williams** see "Contributors" page.

**Melba Wilson** knew Olive from the Brixton Black Women's Group and was a close friend. Melba was awarded an OBE in 2007 for her services to health care and for her influence in the development of health policy in London. Melba is the co-author of *Forensic Psychiatry, Race and Culture* (1988), *Crossing the Boundary: Black women Survive Incest* (1994), and *Healthy and Wise: the Essential Health Handbook for Black Women* (1994). She is currently national and London director for Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health run by the National Institute of Mental Health.

**Jocelyn Wolfe** was part of the Brixton Black Women's Group where she met Olive Morris. She was also a founding member of OWAAD. She participated in a wide range of campaigns affecting black women and the black community.

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# OLIVE MORRIS COLLECTION

## LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

### LAMBETH ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

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**Reference number**

IV/279

**Title**

Olive Morris Collection

**Covering dates**

1967-2009

**Physical extent**

1 box

**Creator**

Olive Morris (1952-1979), Mike McColgan (1979-2000) and Liz Obi (2000-2009), Remembering Olive Collective (2009)

**Administrative history**

Olive Morris was a Black community activist working during the late 1960s and 1970s in South London (Brixton) and Manchester. Born in Jamaica in 1952, she migrated to the UK at the age of nine to join her parents and siblings. During her childhood she lived in Battersea with her family and attended Heathbrook Primary School. She left home aged fourteen to fifteen, was temporarily in foster care and lived with friends. She attended Lavender Hill Secondary School, and continued her education taking O- and A-Levels at evening classes, and taking a course at the London College of Printing. Olive Morris became involved in community activism around 1968, as the British Black Power Movement was gathering momentum. Olive was a member of the Brixton core of the British Black Panther Movement, where she was part of the Youth Section together with Linton Kwesi Johnson, Neil Kenlock and Clovis Reid, and the BPM Sisters Collective with Althea Jones, Leyla Hussein and Beverley Bryan.

Olive Morris was central to the squatters' campaign of that decade. Together with Liz Obi they opened the 121 Railton Road squat in 1973, resisting three illegal evictions. 121 Railton Road went on to host Sabarr Bookshop (the second black bookshop to open in Brixton) and in the 1980s became a well-known anarchist centre, remaining

squatted until 1999. Olive squatted also at 65 Railton Road and later at 2 Talma Road. In 1975 she enrolled to read social sciences at the University of Manchester and received her degree in 1978. While in Manchester she became involved with community groups in Moss Side, and was an active member of the Manchester Black Women's Co-operative (later to be re-formed as Abasindi Women's Co-op) and the Black Women's Mutual Aid Group. During her years at University she also worked with the National Coordinating Committee of Overseas Students campaigning for the abolition of overseas student fees. She travelled to China in 1977 with a group of students on a trip organised by the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU). After returning to Brixton in 1978, she started working at the Brixton Community Law Centre at their Juvenile Unit. Shortly after, she fell ill during a cycling holiday in Spain. She died at the age of twenty-seven at St Thomas Hospital, London, from Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Olive Morris is buried in Streatham Vale Cemetery.

Black women's struggles were at the heart of Olive Morris' work, and she was co-founder of the Brixton Black Women's Group in 1974, and the Organisation of Women of Asian and African Descent (OWAAD) in 1978. After her death, the Brixton Black Women's Group organised several tributes including memorial services at the Abeng Centre in 1978 and 1979, and were involved in the dedication of 18 Brixton Hill as Olive Morris House in 1986.

In 2006 Brixton-based artist Ana Laura López de la Torre initiated the project *Do you remember Olive Morris?*, launching a blog in collaboration with Liz Obi on 1 October 2007 at Minet Library, as part of Black History Month 2007.

In 2008 the Remembering Olive Collective (ROC) – a group of women of diverse ages and backgrounds – was formed in Brixton with the aim of creating public memories of Olive Morris and the campaigns and organisations she worked for.

In 2009, Olive Morris was chosen by popular vote as one of the historical figures to appear in a new local currency launched by Brixton Transition Town, the Brixton Pound, and was featured in *Pride* magazine as one of ten Black British forgotten heroes.

### **Archival history**

Mike McColgan, Olive's partner, kept a selection of her personal papers after her death, adding to it testimonials and letters of condolence received at the time. In 2000 Liz Obi contacted Mike McColgan to retrieve information about Olive Morris with a view of creating a memorial exhibition about her life and times. Mike McColgan handed over Olive Morris papers to Liz Obi, who added additional material copied from archives and libraries, and produced the exhibition *Remembering Olive, Remembering the Times*, shown at Brixton Library in 2000.

The oral history interviews, summary, transcriptions and associated materials were compiled by the Remembering Olive Collective between June and October 2009, as part of the *Do you remember Olive Morris?* project, supported by an award from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Olive Morris Collection was launched with an event at Brixton Library on Wednesday 21 October 2009, as part of Black History Month 2009.

**Acquisition or transfer information**

Liz Obi deposited the materials at Lambeth Archives on 12 January 2009. Their accession number is 2009/1.

**Arrangement**

**IV/279/1 Olive Morris papers and Liz Obi exhibition papers** (arranged chronologically by subject).

**IV/279/2 Do you remember Olive Morris? Oral History project**

Recorded interviews, summary and transcriptions (arranged chronological by date of interview).

**Access conditions**

There are no restrictions on personal access, on inclusion in Council website or publication, on copying by researchers for research and private study, nor restrictions on making microfilm or digital surrogates for preservation and access purposes.

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Reproduction for books and articles is acceptable.

**Dates of description**

October 2009

## Reference No IV/279

## Olive Morris Collection

Reference	Description	
IV/279/1	Olive Morris papers	(c. 1967-8)
IV/279/1/1/1	B&W photograph (8.5x10cm) of Olive Morris. 1 item	
IV/279/1/2/1-5	Colour photographs (8.8x12.5cm) of Olive Morris at modelling course. 5 items	February 1969
IV/279/1/3/1	B&W photograph (16.5x22.5cm) of Olive Morris leaving King's College Hospital after police assault, with inscription at the back in Olive Morris' handwriting. 1 item	Nov. 1969
IV/279/1/4/1-2	Olive Morris' French and Arithmetic notebooks from Tulse Hill School. 2 items	1971-2
IV/279/1/5/1-17	16 B&W photographs (8.8x8.8cm) and 1 sheet of 35mm negatives (6 strips) of group of Black Workers Movement members (formerly the Black Panther Movement) supporting pickets by STC Black Workers Action Committee against Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd. New Southgate and AUEW Union. 17 items	Summer 1973
IV/279/1/6/1	B&W photograph (19x24cm) of Olive Morris with a group of Brixton Black Panthers including Danny DaCosta, possibly taken in London. 1 item	(c.1973)
IV/279/1/7/1-7	Copies of B&W photograph of Olive Morris with megaphone, at a rally against the SPG (Special Patrol Group) presence in Brixton at Tate Gardens, Brixton; 1 copy 20x25cm (older print); 3 copies 12x19cm; 3 copies 20x25cm. 7 items (7 copies)	(c. 1974-6)

IV/279/1/8/1-3	Personal documents: Jamaican passport issued 18 August 1970; Postcard from Liz Obi stamped in Wales April 1973; Job description Juvenile Unit Job at the Law Centre 1977-8. 3 items	1970-8
IV/279/1/9/1-4	Colour photographs (8.8x11.5cm) of Olive and Jennifer Morris with police and council officers outside 2 Talma Road. 4 items	(c.1974-6)
IV/279/1/10/1-38	Colour photographs (8.5x8.5cm) of Olive Morris trip to Italy (Venice, Rimini, San Marino) with Wilma Dean and Pat Bent. 38 items	10-21 Sept 1976
IV/279/1/11/1-30	Documents from Olive Morris student years at Manchester University, including 3 student cards (British Rail Student Railcard 1975-6, National Union of Students 1975-6, College of Adult Education 1976-7); 2 handouts on imperialism, race and class and 13 sets of exam questions; 9 essays (of which 2 are manuscripts) on Marxism, race and class, and Third World peasant movements; 1 set of French handwritten notes and 2 notebooks. In the notebooks there are notes from her involvement in community organising, such as minutes from meetings and lists of names and addresses. 30 items	1975-8
IV/279/1/12/1-32	30 colour photographs (8.8x8.8cm), 1 sheet of 35mm negatives (5 strips) and 1 colour photocopy of photograph (14x14.5cm) of Olive Morris and Mike McColgan's cycling trip to Northern Ireland (Donegal, Derry). 32 items	Sept 1976
IV/279/1/13/1-69	Olive Morris trip to China: 43 colour photographs (8.8x8.8cm), 19 B&W photographs (15x12cm), 5 B&W copies of Olive Morris photographic portrait (21x15cm), Olive Morris'	10 Aug – 3 Sept 1977

	<p>manuscript report about her visit subsequently published in Speak Out (Issue 1) by Brixton Black Women's Group (BWG); 1 small envelope with hand-written Chinese calligraphy in blue pen, 1 35mm colour slide.</p> <p>69 items</p>	
IV/279/1/14/1-21	<p>Political campaigning documents including leaflets, letters, statements, headed paper and pamphlets for the following campaigns and groups: Sussex African Students Association, Organisation for Sickle Cell Anaemia Research (OSCAR), Black People Against State Harassment (BASH), Anti-Racists Anti-Fascist Coordinating Committee (Manuscripts and copies written by Olive Morris and Mike McColgan critiquing the strategies of white anti-nazi groups), Brixton Ad-Hoc Committee Against Police Repression (BACAPR), News Line, Anti-Nazi League Carnival (circular by Lambeth Council Workers Against the Nazis), Socialist Union Internationalist, Scrap Sus Campaign, Ban the Jab, Socialist Union International, Black Workers Movement (BWM). Fundraising notes listing the names of several community organisations and leaders.</p> <p>21 items (some are duplicates)</p>	1977-8
IV/279/1/15/1-14	<p>14 colour photographs (8.8x8.8cm) of Olive Morris and her mother Doris Morris (as trade union steward), attending a conference of the Electronic Telecommunication and Plumbing Union at the Ocean Room in Scarborough.</p> <p>14 items</p>	(c. 1977-8)
IV/279/1/16/1-13	<p>12 colour photographs (8.8x8.8cm) and 1 sheet of 35mm negatives (3 strips) of children's outing to the Thames organised by the Abeng Centre (Brixton), with Olive Morris and her sister Yana featuring in some pictures.</p> <p>13 items</p>	(c. 1977-8)

IV/279/1/17/1-11	9 colour photographs (8.8x8.8cm), 1 sheet of 35 mm negatives (4 strips), and 1 B&W photograph (11.8x19cm) of Olive Morris and Mike McColgan on a cycling holiday in Northern Spain. 11 items	6 Sept – 15 Sept 1978
IV/279/1/18/1-13	13 colour photographs (8.8x8.8cm) of Olive Morris, Mike McColgan and Mike's mother at Burghley House, Stamford, on return from the cycling tour in Spain. 13 items	Sept 1978
IV/279/1/19/1-8	Documents relating to Olive Morris' illness and death: Cards and letter from Liz Obi and Darcus Howe to Olive Morris in hospital. Family letter of invitation to Olive's funeral with invitation to memorial meeting organised by the Black Women's Group (3 duplicates). Cards and letters of condolence, including one from Manchester Black Women's Co-op. 8 items	1979
IV/279/1/20/1-12	Tributes after Olive Morris death: Photocopy of newspaper article by Ayo Martin Tajo reporting on Olive Morris' Memorial addressed to Mike McColgan. Invitation to Evening of Remembrance (2 duplicates) organised by Brixton Black Women's Group on anniversary of Olive Morris death. Thank you letter from Mike McColgan to Brixton Black Women's Group. Letters to Mike McColgan forwarded with photographs and negatives. 3 B&W contact sheets of various photographs of Olive. Overseas Students Fees Campaign flyer with update news. Copy of Squatters Handbook with Olive Morris on the cover published 1979. Lambeth Council letter of invitation to Mike McColgan to the dedication of 18 Brixton Hill as Olive Morris House. Programme for dedication of Olive Morris House (14 March 1986). 12 items	1979-86

IV/279/1/21/1-9	1 colour photograph (8.8x12.8cm) of a 5 year old birthday girl name written on back 'Kenedy Michael Desmond'. 1 B&W photograph (17x24cm) of 2 females women and 4 children. 7 B&W photographs (15x22cm) of aerial views of Meath Estate, Regent Road, SE24. 9 items	n.d.
IV/279/1/22/1-5	1 colour negatives sheet (4 strips) of holiday trip to Germany (6-15 July 1971), 1 B&W negatives sheet (5 strips) and 1 colour negatives sheet (3 strips) of trip to Jamaica (1973-1974), 1 colour negatives sheet (5 strips) of group and family gathering. 1 B&W negatives sheet (3 strips) of Unity Centre and Bookshop at 74 Railton Road fire-bombed (15 March 1973). 5 items	1971-4
IV/279/1/23/1-38	Exhibition <i>Remembering Olive, Remembering the Times</i> by Liz Obi (10-16 July 2000): 18 colour photographs (7.5x12.5cm) of the exhibition and memorial event. Letter of invitation to the exhibition. Testimonial by Patricia Fernando including correspondence. Associated research material, including: photocopied images of Black Workers Movement demonstration, Anti-Vietnam War demonstration, picket outside Mangrove 9 trial, Student demonstration outside Nottingham Film Theatre, cover of Squatting Bulletin; photocopies of books and periodicals with information about Olive Morris activism; photocopies of photographs, book chapters, and press articles (photocopied from originals at George Padmore Institute, McKenzie Heritage Pictures and Lambeth Archives). Dates of Olive Morris' travels typed from her passport. 38 items	2000