



**The David Oluwale
Memorial Association
(DOMA)**

**9th ANNUAL REPORT
2021 – 2022**

#RememberOluwale
www.rememberoluwale.org

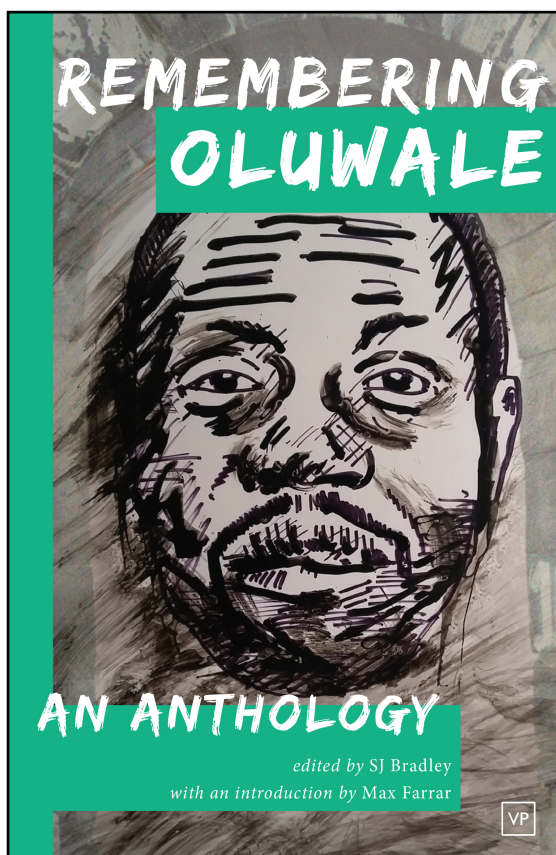
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OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The David Oluwale Memorial Association (DOMA) has adopted aims agreed with the Charity Commission. It aims to promote equality, diversity and racial harmony for the public benefit in Leeds specifically and the UK in general, in particular but not exclusively by any or all of the following means:

1. educating the public about the life and death of David Oluwale
2. educating the public on the progress the City of Leeds has made towards justice for ethnic minorities and humane treatment of the homeless and destitute, and in combating the stigma of individuals experiencing mental ill health
3. educating the public on what more needs to be done to achieve full racial justice and humane treatment of the homeless and destitute in Leeds, and to combat the stigma of individuals experiencing mental ill health.



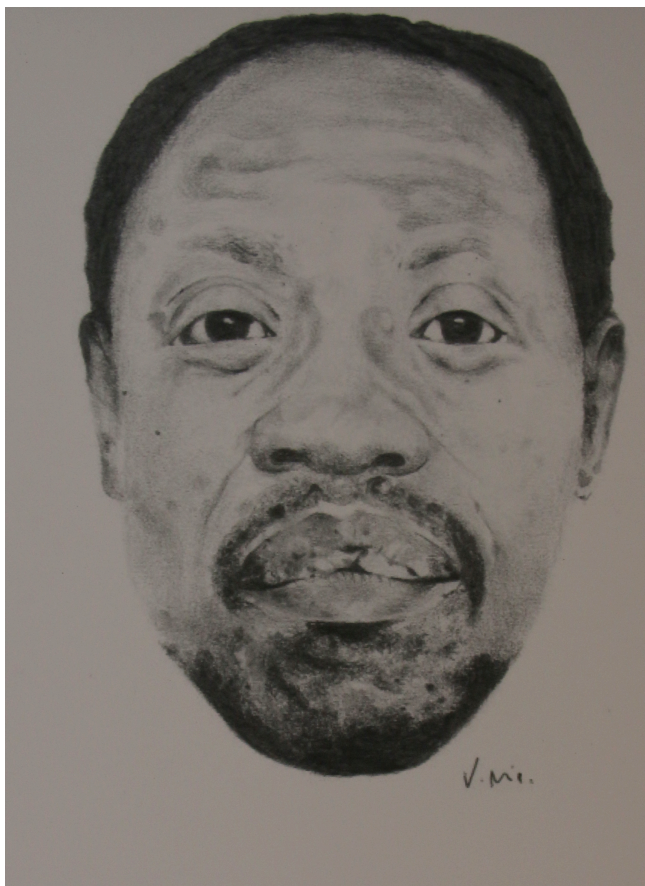
Sai Murray's illustration of David Oluwale for the front cover of our publication Remembering Oluwale Anthology (Valley Press, 2016), available for purchase on the Help page of rememberingoluwale.org



King David Oluwale, sculpted by Alan Pergusey, painted by Jane Storr, performed by Simon Namsoo, in a costume designed by Joan Jeffreys, using a harness made by Hughbon Condor, for the 50th anniversary of Leeds West Indian Carnival 2017.

WHO WAS DAVID OLUWALE?

David Oluwale arrived in Hull (East Yorkshire, UK) in 1949. With some friends, he had stowed away on a merchant ship in Lagos, Nigeria. He was imprisoned in Leeds (UK) for one month for the offence of not buying a ticket. Since he was a British citizen, he was free to make his way when he left prison. Like all migrants in search of a better life, he arrived with energy and ambition. He had various manual jobs until 1953. Despite gruelling work and racism, he seems to have enjoyed himself in the pubs and dance-halls of Leeds. He was known as Yankee by his friends, such was his love of American popular culture and his zest for life. This is the period of hope for David Oluwale.



Portrait of David Oluwale
by Victoria Mienkowska, 2021

After a dispute over the bill at the King Edward Hotel in Leeds city centre on 25th April 1953, he was arrested and sent to Leeds Prison in Armley. From there, he was dispatched to Menston psychiatric hospital in Leeds (later renamed High Royds). He was briefly released in 1961. In 1964 he was jailed for being drunk and disorderly, assessed as paranoid and a 'dullard', and sent again to High Royds hospital in 1965. Released in 1967, he lived as a vagrant on the streets of Leeds. David was found dead in the River Aire/Leeds Canal at the Knostrop weir on 4th May 1969.

While he was of no fixed abode ('wandering abroad' was his crime under the 1824 Vagrancy Act) and sleeping rough in the Leeds city centre over the last two years of his life, David Oluwale was persistently assaulted and abused by two Leeds police officers, Sergeant Kitching and Inspector Ellerker.

These officers were arrested following the brave whistle-blowing of a police cadet named Gary Galvin soon after David's body was found. The investigating officer, Chief Superintendent Perkins of the Metropolitan police, recommended that they were charged with the murder of David Oluwale on 18th April 1969. Instead, they were prosecuted for manslaughter, ABH and GBH (Actual and Grievous Bodily Harm).

In November 1971 they were convicted of ABH. They were acquitted of David's manslaughter on the Judge's direction. Ellerker was sentenced to three years, Kitching got 27 months.

There was much publicity of the trial, and in 1974 *Smiling David*, the script of a BBC radio play by Jeremy Sandford, was published. Until two more books about David were published in 2007, by Caryl Phillips and Kester Aspden, his story was almost forgotten. In 2008, while speaking about David Oluwale at the launch of his book at Leeds Metropolitan (now Beckett) University, Caryl Phillips suggested that there should be a memorial in Leeds to David Oluwale.

DOMA: THE #REMEMBEROLUWALE CAMPAIGN

The David Oluwale Memorial Association (DOMA) started life in 2008 as a committee based at in the Community Partnerships and Volunteering office at Leeds Metropolitan/Beckett University. In 2012 it was registered as a charity and as a company limited by guarantee, unaffiliated to the university. Its objects are listed above. It is now branded as #RememberOluwale. In remembering David Oluwale, and in joining with all those who are working today to overcome all the challenges that David faced (the 'Oluwale issues': migration, racism, mental ill-health, homelessness, police malpractice, destitution) our charity sees itself as restoring David's initially hopeful trajectory. We support Leeds Council's ambition to create a compassionate, inclusive and more equal city, where diversity is welcomed and everyone is able to fulfil their dreams. David's story started with hope and ended in abjection; DOMA aims to restore hope as the City of Leeds becomes a place that welcomes others. We always work with artists of every type to tell David's story and to campaign for social justice with vivacity, creativity and enjoyment.

[Much more information about David Oluwale and the charity can be obtained from [here](#) on our website.]

DOMA'S IMPACT IN THIS PERIOD

This report covers the charity's activities over the period of 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. It provides the charity's accounts up to 31st March 2022. Details are provided below.

DOMA coming out of lockdown

From early 2020 to the middle of 2021 Leeds had been put on hold as the UK tackled the global Covid-19 pandemic. This meant that DOMA has been 'working from home' for about half of the year under review. We made plans and we started to deliver public activities as soon as the law allowed.

In brief, we:

- A. Conducted the annual David Oluwale's Leeds event in July 2021.
- B. Delivered a symposium on racism and mental health in November 2021.
- C. Contributed to the 'Applied Humanities' module at Leeds Beckett University from February 2022.
- D. Published 'Our Future', our Business Plan for 2021-4.
- E. Developed our work on the Yinka Shonibare Sculpture Garden
- F. Developed the Blue Plaque for David Oluwale project with Leeds Civic Trust (for late April 2022).
- G. Developed the public interview and reading with Caryl Phillips, plus a creative writing workshop (for late April 2022) as part of the project to publish Volume 2 of the *Remembering Oluwale Anthology* (for 2023).

We consider therefore that our impact has been to:

- Involve more people in knowing about David Oluwale's life and death in Leeds.
- Develop the public understanding of the inter-relationship between racism, mental ill-health and policing in Leeds.
- Add to the curriculum and understanding of the life and death of David Oluwale in one Leeds university.
- Explain to our potential funders and supporters how the charity has consolidated its work and planned its future.

- Strengthen the foundations for our major project (the David Oluwale Memory Garden in the centre of Leeds).
- Engage with an important heritage organisation to further awareness among the public of David Oluwale and his significance today.
- Enhance the 'arts for social justice' activities in the city of Leeds.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Raising our profile:

We have kept our story in the public eye by regularly posting items of interest to our followers on social media. Facebook seems to be dropping in popularity, but our other social media platforms have seen considerable increase in followers.

- Our Facebook followers increased from 1,296 to 1,383. Up 7%.
- Our Twitter followers increased from 1,327 to 2,100. Up 58%.
- Our Instagram page increased from 553 to 890 followers. Up 61%.
- Our You Tube channel has quite a bit of content now and it increased its subscribers from 74 to 153. Up by 107%.
- Our MailChimp newsletter is now going out about eight times a year to all those who have given us their names. We have 383 on our list. (People are only added if they expressly agree, in accordance with data protection law.)
- Our website is being regularly updated.

GOVERNANCE

Patrons

Caryl Phillips, writer and Professor of English Literature at Yale University, USA became our Founding Patron in 2013. Phillips was born in St Kitts and grew up in Leeds. The third part of his book *Foreigners – Three English Lives* (2007) analyses David Oluwale's life and death. He initiated the memorial to David Oluwale in Leeds. CarylPhillips.com

Ruth Bunday, MA, became a Patron in February 2019. Ruth has lived in Leeds since 1969. Initially she worked for the Race Relations Board but soon became a solicitor. Her office in York Place merged with Ison Harrison on Chapeltown Road in 1993 becoming Harrison Bunday. Ruth now works from the city centre representing families at inquests into deaths in custody and mental health detention.

Directors and Trustees

In March 2022 our Directors and Trustees were: Abdullah Adekola, Victoria Ajayi, Max Farrar, Asher Jael, Chloe Hudson, Emily Zobel Marshall, Abigail Marshall Katung, Peter Hindle-Marsh, Ellie Montgomery and Mariam Sadikot. Full details appear here on our website www.remember-oluwale.org

We are extremely grateful for their support to the Trustees who retired in the past year: John Battle, Emma Bimpson and Duncan Milwain.

Advisory Committee

Our Advisory Committee is Saphra Bennett, Max Dunbar, Ian Duhig, Arthur France, Mahalia France-Mir, Sam Kapas, Mike Love, Sai Murray, Yosola Olajoye, Chijioke John Ojukwu, Martin Patterson and Michelle Scally Clarke. Information about each of them is on our website www.rememberoluwale.org

Volunteers and Consultants

There are lots of people who help DOMA's work as Patrons, Board members, Consultants, Advisers and Partners and we are grateful to them all. We particularly thank the two consultants who have given us much support in developing Phase 1 of the Yinka Shonibare sculpture project: Pam Bone and Pippa Hale.

Partners

We are indebted to these organisations, with whom we have had association and partnership arrangements and/or financial support over several years:

- Leeds Beckett University (School of Cultural Studies and Humanities, School of Art, Architecture and Design, School of Social Sciences)
- Leeds University (School of English, School of History)
- Nigerian Community Leeds
- Leeds West Indian Centre
- Leeds City Council
- Leeds Philosophical and Literary Association
- The Leeds Library
- The Forward Arts Trust
- Group Ginger Architects
- St George's Crypt
- The Big BookEnd
- Leeds Literary Festival
- Fictions of Every Kind
- Virtual Migrants
- Touchstone
- Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network
- Renaissance One
- The Tetley Centre for Contemporary Art
- Leeds DynaMix
- Utopia Theatre
- Stand Up to Racism
- Together for Peace

REVIEW OF WORK TO DATE

The David Oluwale Memory Garden, including the Yinka Shonibare CBE, RA ‘Hibiscus Rising’ sculpture.

Progress continues apace with our Sculpture Memory Garden, despite a serious challenge in the past year. Vastint, the property developer appointed by Leeds City Council to manage most of its in ‘Aire Park’ venture to the south of the River Aire in the city centre, withdrew its permission for the Oluwale Memory Garden to be installed on its land, despite planning permission having been granted. This caused consternation, but Leeds City Council stepped in and allocated a part of its Meadow Gardens development, on the western edge of Aire Park for the sculpture, at considerable extra cost to itself. The DOMA Board is immensely grateful for this generous decision.

During the past year, Yinka Shonibare’s Studio has produced the maquette of his ‘Hibiscus Rising’ sculpture, which, when installed, will stand 10 metres high and represent the hibiscus flower, ubiquitous in the global south. The maquette will be on display in The Tetley Centre for Contemporary Art from September 2022.



*Yinka Shonibare CBE, RA in front of his work titled The British Library, 2014
© ShonibareStudio*

While the maquette was being made, Ali Hobbs made a short film of the production process, including an interview in which Yinka Shonibare explained why he accepted our commission to make this new piece of work for David Oluwale. The maquette and the film will be used in a community engagement and consultation process in the summer of 2022.

During the past year, as well as supervising the maquette and the film, DOMA has liaised with the Leeds 2023 Festival of Culture, a large NGO created to manage a programme of art and perfor-



Joe Williams (right) speaking about David Oluwale in Leeds City Centre, 17.7.21
© Gavin Morris

mance for the city during 2023. We are delighted to have secured their support for the Memory Garden and Sculpture Project and they will now manage the fund-raising and installation of the sculpture in 2023. The design company Plan-It has worked tirelessly to enable the design of the garden and sculpture to go through the consultation and planning process.

DOMA's task now is to liaise closely with Leeds 2023 to raise the large amount of money needed to manufacture and install the sculpture.

The values underpinning the Memory Garden remain as before. It will be a place where:

- everyone is welcome
- there is sanctuary for all who are vulnerable
- the diversity of the cultures in Leeds is expressed
- quiet reflection is possible
- debate about the issues facing the city of Leeds may take place
- pleasure and conviviality are to be enjoyed
- social justice is promoted
- growth takes place — in flora and fauna, and in the lives of individuals and groups.
- creativity in all its forms (music, film, art etc) abounds
- performance (spoken word, drama, dance etc) is produced
- and this will be a playful place, attractive to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Educational and campaigning work

Essentially, DOMA is an educational charity which takes a very broad view of education and doesn't make a strong distinction between education and campaigning. We are educationalists with a mission: to remind people of David Oluwale's story, its relevance today, and to make links with all those educating and campaigning for racial and social justice, with special attention to mental health, homelessness and migration, while joining with all those who are eliminating mal-practice in the police service.

This year, DOMA has made the following contributions to education for social change.

David Oluwale's Leeds

The actor, director and historian Joe Williams led a second version of our successful 'David Oluwale's Leeds' walk that shows and tells of David's life and death in the centre of Leeds. 20 or so people joined Joe and the peace development worker Asher Jael (now a member of our Board) visiting the spaces where David enjoyed himself in the King Edward pub and the Mecca Ballroom (both now business premises in the Victoria Quarter) in the early 1950s, where he slept rough in the 1960s, and where he was drowned in 1969. Each participant received a copy of the illustrated David Oluwale map, designed for us by Sai Murray for the 50th anniversary events in 2019. We are most grateful to the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society for financial support for this event and to Slung Low Theatre Company for providing the audio support equipment. (See photo on page 9 above.)



Asher Jael at David Oluwale's Leeds
© Gavin Morris

Locks to Legacies DOMA Board member Asher Jael worked with the Geraldine Connor Foundation (GCF) to lead a project with a diverse group of young people exploring the history of the Leeds waterfront (the Aire-Calder Canal) in the summer of 2021. Asher developed the David Oluwale story with them and their responses (in poetry and art) were exhibited at The Lock-keeper's House in October 2021. Our co-chair Dr Emily Zobel Marshall was an invited speaker in their programme. One of the young participants performed his poem for David Oluwale at the David Oluwale Blue Plaque event in April 2022 and Victoria Mienkowska's drawing of David Oluwale appears on page 4 of this report. Anyone with a QR reader on their phone can listen to the young people speaking about David Oluwale when they pass marked points on the waterfront (near the Royal Armouries). This project was produced by a partnership of the GCF, Ignite Yorkshire, We Are IVE, Heritage Corner and Canal Connections.

More here <https://www.gcfoundation.co.uk/blog/locks-to-legacies-project-update>

International School, Geneva

Pascale Mignon Pauletto contacted us in September 2021 to say that Caryl Phillips' account of David's life and death in his book *Foreigners — Three English Lives* (2007) was a set text for her English language literature students. We guided her through the resources on our website and sent her the David Oluwale Map and *Anthology*. After their period of study we joined both of her classes for a Q&A via Zoom. The students organised a cake sale in support of DOMA's work and raised £250 for our funds.



Ian Duhig reading his Aroko for David Oluwale in the Mary Seacole Garden, 29.10.21
© Max Farrar

An Aroko for David in The Mary Seacole Memorial Garden in Chapeltown, Leeds

There has been a plaque commemorating David Oluwale in the memory garden created by the Mary Seacole Nurses Association in Leeds since 2007. It includes a poem for David created by a collaborative group of poets called The F Word. The Garden is in the heart of Chapeltown, where David where lodged in the 1963. In 2021 the Garden was re-designed and improved and the Mary Seacole group kindly allowed us to include a new plaque when it re-opened in October 2021. One of the UK's most prominent poets, Ian Duhig, whose engagement with David's story stretches back to the early 1970s, allowed us to reproduce his 'Aroko to David Oluwale' on the plaque, which in-

cludes a very brief account of David's life and death. The re-opening ceremony included a short talk by DOMA Secretary Max Farrar, and Ian, who lives in Leeds, read his Aroko. The poem is reproduced here <https://lcileeds.org/an-aroko-for-david-oluwale/>



Why David Oluwale Matters 10.11.22. L-R DOMA Board members Abdullah Adekola and Dr Emily Zobel Marshall, panel members Alison Lowe CBE, Dr Abiye Hector-Goma and Heather Nelson. © Max Farrar

Why David Oluwale Matters

This well-attended event at St George's Conference Centre on 10th November 2021 was the first of our annual 'panel discussions' of the David Oluwale issues — in this case, the intersection of racism, mental ill-health and homelessness.

Contributions to the discussion were made by:

- Alison Lowe, CBE, who was the CEO of the NGO Touchstone, which served Leeds communities with multiple intersecting issues, and is now the West Yorkshire Deputy Mayor with responsibility for policing
- Dr Abiye Hector-Goma, a member of Nigerian Community Leeds and a General Practitioner with much experience in the field of mental health
- Heather Nelson, the CEO of Leeds Black Health Initiative

Lots of good questions and answers then followed. Poetry was contributed by two 'survivors' of the psychiatric services in Leeds, Terry Simpson and Owen Turner, and we showed the film made about David Oluwale by two Leeds Beckett University students, starring DOMA Board member Abdullah Adekola. We are very grateful to the Lipman-Miliband Trust for financial support for this event. Later, we advertised in our Newsletter Terry Simpson's novel *Needleham*, satirising recent years in a psychiatric hospital unlike the one where David was a patient in the 1950s and 60s. (Stairwell Books, 2022)

Roundhay High School: In January 2022 Sophie Howarth, a drama teacher at Roundhay High School in north Leeds, contacted us with an idea to insert David Oluwale’s story into her Year 10 theatre studies GCSE programme. We met with her and supplied various types of curriculum support materials (including our summaries of David’s life, the David Oluwale Map and our *Remembering Oluwale Anthology*) and she worked with her students to produce a performance in May and other assessed work. Full report next year.

‘Applied Humanities’ at Leeds Beckett University

DOMA has developed its previous work with colleagues at Leeds Beckett University by contributing a programme of work to the Applied Humanities module within its School of Cultural Studies and Humanities. This module is designed to enhance students’ experience of professional work and



L-R: Dr Simon Morgan (LBU staff), Emily Meehan, Emily Ward and Grace Coupland (LBU Applied Humanities students) on Leeds Bridge, near the point where David Oluwale was drowned in 1969. © Max Farrar

thus increase the employment prospects. Starting in February 2022, Grace Coupland, Emily Meehan and Emily Ward worked with us by helping research the experience migrants like David would have had in Leeds in the 1950s and 60s and by assisting us in the organisation and promotion of

two major events in Late April 2022: Professor Caryl Phillips in conversation with Dr Emily Zobel Marshall (a co-chair of DOMA) (with a creative writing workshop leading to *Remembering Oluwale Anthology 2*) and the ceremony to install a Blue Plaque for David Oluwale (in conjunction with Leeds Civic Trust). These events will be described in next year's report. The students learned how a small charity like ours (with no paid staff) organises itself — and gets help from all types of different agency.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In the coming year our first priority is to support Leeds 2023 in raising the funds needed to build the David Oluwale Memory Garden in the Meadow Lane Gardens in Aire Park, in Leeds city centre. This will include a community engagement programme in which we tour the maquette of Hibiscus Rising around the city, discussing the relevance of David Oluwale to the city of Leeds today and obtaining their feedback.

We will continue to organise events to raise the charity's profile and to support educational and campaigning activities on all the issues that David Oluwale endured: mental ill-health, homelessness, racism, police malpractice and destitution, while always mindful of the current plight of migrants seeking settlement in the UK.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The David Oluwale Memorial Association promotes equality, diversity and racial harmony for the public benefit in Leeds based on the story of David Oluwale, and in this way complies with its duty as set out in section 4 of the 2006 Charities Act.