

Cyril Lionel Robert James was a novelist, activist, cultural critic and social theorist

DID YOU KNOW?



An inaugural event at the Dalston CLR James Library to commemorate the life of the man it is named after; writer Gary Younge (inset) gave a reading

Life and legacy of CLR James

GUARDIAN columnist Gary Younge delivered a lecture at an event commemorating the life of CLR James in the Dalston library which bears his name.

Over 150 people attended the first of what is set to be a series of annual lectures organised in memory of the writer and political activist.

Younge delivered a thoughtful speech and read extracts from selected works of CLR James, notably 'The Black

Jacobins' and 'Notes On American Civilisation'.

Younge, who has been a fan of CLR James since his teens, said: "He was a brilliant, witty, clever writer, who made you feel smarter for reading his books, and who took you with him. CLR James was an intellectual who lived

his ideas and put them into the service of the people."

Cllr Jonathan McShane, Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Culture, also attended the event.

He added: "We are delighted that Hackney's connection to CLR James will continue through

the new Dalston library. This lecture, the first in a series of annual events along with the permanent exhibition, will bring his work and writings to new audiences."

Next year will mark the 75th anniversary of 'The Black Jacobins' and the 50th anniversary of CLR James's cricket classic 'Beyond A Boundary'.

The event took place on 27 March, and was organised by the Council, in

collaboration with the Black and Ethnic Minority Arts (BEMA) Network, and his widow Selma James.

Dalston CLR James Library is now open. The state-of-the-art facility is one of the largest public libraries to open in the UK this year, and is twice the size of the library that it has replaced.

For more info, visit: www.hackney.gov.uk/cl-libraries

