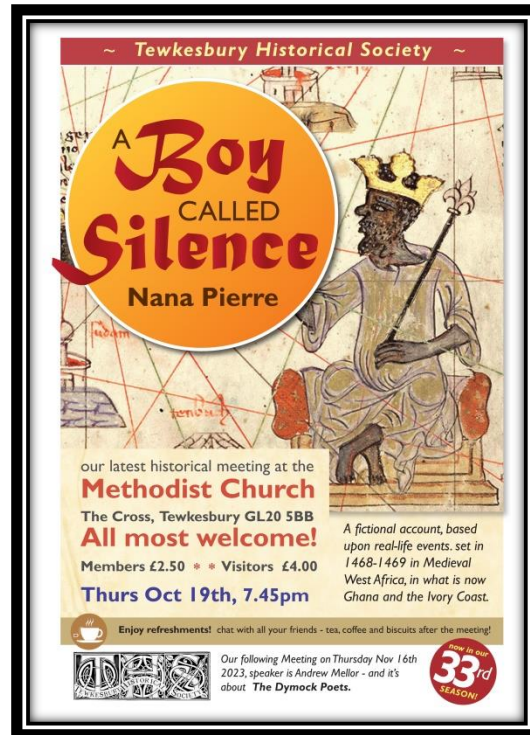


“A Boy called Silence”



This is the first time THS has been able to focus on West African Medieval History.

We met Nana when she worked with the Borough Council Planning Department on Listed Buildings.

On learning of her own historical studies we just had to invite her to provide for us a new source of learning.

*Historic fiction based in research of pre-European involvement in **Sub-Saharan West Africa - the former Gold Coast** (Not long before the Portuguese first met the various peoples of the coastal settlements.) **The time period of the book is between 1468 and 1469.** It follows two children from two different class backgrounds and ethnicities.*

*In the greater landscape, **Sonni Ali Ber 'Sonni Ali the great' of the Songhai dynasty or empire** is expanding territories through warfare. The Songhai Empire emerges from the dwindling power and subsequent power vacuum in the **Mali Empire.** (**Saharan empires of the trans-Saharan trade**) This mostly affects stability of trade routes and also offers context for my fictional setting.*

*The majority of the story takes place in the **Bono Kingdom, a city state with a loose confederacy of towns and villages.** It is often referred to as the precursor of the **Ashanti Kingdom.** The Ashanti cloned a lot of the governance systems towards an arguably more successful kingdom, which spanned the forest belt of modern-day **Ghana and Côte D'Ivoire** [the former Ivory Coast].*

*The story looks at how the external political factors affect personal motivations of the characters. Told in alternating Point Of View (POV). **Yaa** is the granddaughter of a Bono courtier and **Merekom** is a boy without a voice who has come to serve in their household. The story is punctuated by letters from a Dyla scholar who has a connection to Yaa's grandfather and the emerging Songhai empire.*

Nana has completed a book but it is not yet published. We look forward to your sharing our novel experience on 19 October and learning more about West Africa.

John