

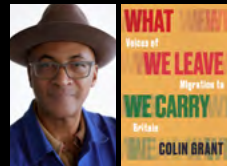
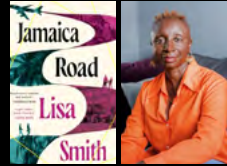
Black History Month

A celebration of history, arts,
literature and film Festival 2026

A guide to Lambeth Libraries events – Autumn 2026

#BHM26

image @ Stefan Alfios



Author Symeon Brown



Library of
SANCTUARY AWARD
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary

Lambeth Libraries Black History Month 2026

Introduction

Welcome to Lambeth Libraries' Black History Month Festival. This celebration of African and Caribbean heritage and culture is one of the key events in our programme for the National Year of Reading. There are author talks, readings, poetry, opera, dance, book fairs, reading groups, painting and photographic exhibitions for adults and children across Lambeth throughout October and beyond.

Councillor Natalie Kane

Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Democracy and Culture



@Lambeth_libraries



Facebook/BHMLambeth



www.lambeth.gov.uk/black-history-month

**Round
Table
Books**

We are proud that Round Table Books are
our official bookseller for the month.

Programme events

An Evening with Grantley Haynes: From Windrush to British Reggae

Thursday, 1 October, 6.30pm
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Bookings

Join us for a lively talk and audience Q&A with Grantley Haynes, a pioneering voice in British reggae, founder of GTS Records and author of **The British Reggae Music Industry** and his current title **From Windrush to British Reggae**.



Spanning generations, the book traces a powerful narrative from the arrival of the Windrush generation to the emergence and evolution of British reggae as a distinct musical, cultural, and social movement. It explores how reggae in Britain became more than just music: it became a voice of identity, resistance, community cohesion, and creative expression for Black British communities navigating change,

challenge, and opportunity.

Grantley will be
in conversation
with Colin
Brown from
Reggae
Fraternity UK.

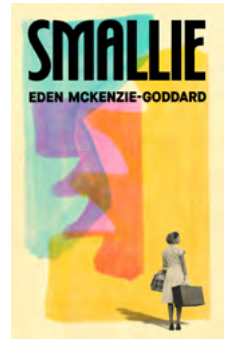


Smallie with Eden McKenzie-Goddard

Monday 5 October, 6.30pm
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Bookings

In 1961, nineteen-year-old Lucinda Brown travels to England in search of her son's father, Clarence Braithwaite, who left Barbados to join the British army. But aboard the ship to Southampton she meets a man named Raldo who offers her a glimpse of a new life, a freer life. Bound by the memory of her son waiting at home, she chooses Clarence – realising too late that war has made a stranger out of him.



Nearly fifty years later, Lucinda receives a letter from the Home Office that threatens to tear her world apart. An exhilarating and expansive tale of a family thrown into collision with the

Windrush scandal, **Smallie** shows just how easily the past can spill into our lives, even when – especially when – we think we've closed the door on it.



Photo credit: Richard Barr



Legacy & Hope: Celebrating 30 Years of Pegasus Opera Company

Tuesday 6 October, 7pm
Clapham Library, SW4 7DB

Bookings

This Black History Month, join Pegasus Opera Company for an unforgettable celebration marking 30 years of breaking barriers, championing diverse voices and bringing extraordinary music to the stage.

Legacy & Hope celebrates our founder Lloyd Newton's enduring vision of Harmony in Diversity.

Experience an exhilarating evening of world-class classical singers, our uplifting community choir and a live DJ!



Many voices. One Stage. Opera for all.

The Good, the Black and the Boujee with Symeon Brown

Thursday 8 October, 6.30pm
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Bookings

From broadcasters and lawyers to content creators, actors and politicians, Black professionals appear to have become leaders of Britain's most visible, profitable and culture-defining industries. Yet educated Black professionals say racism is entrenched and rising to the top has never been harder. So, what is going on? How have they ascended? At what expense? And what does the expansion of a Black middle class mean for all Black people in Britain?

National correspondent Symeon Brown has undertaken the largest known data study of Britain's Black middle class and elite to compile a social history and critique of the new Black middle class. With style, depth and an incisive eye, he unravels the web of class and gender that shapes Black Britain today, rendering visible the psychological and material cost of class aspiration.

[Join Symeon for one of the most discussed books of 2026.](#)



Photo credit: Stefan Alfios

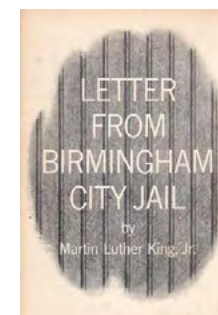
Brixton Radical Readers discuss Letter from Birmingham Jail by Martin Luther King

Friday 9 October, 7pm
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Bookings

Join Brixton Library's Radical Readers to discuss **Letter from Birmingham Jail** by **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Written on April 16, 1963, the 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' is an open letter



by Martin Luther King Jr. defending nonviolent direct action against segregation. Imprisoned in Alabama, King expressed deep frustration with white moderates who prioritized 'order' over justice, and preferred waiting passively. He argued that people have a moral duty to break unjust laws immediately rather than wait for justice.

[To pick up a copy of the book, contact Brixton Library.](#)

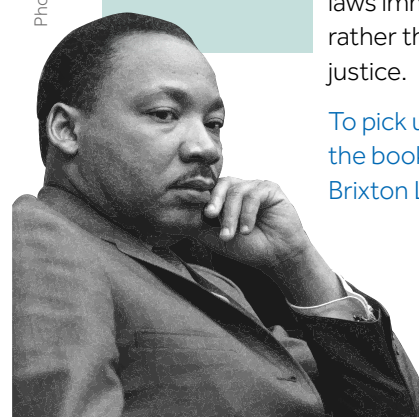


Photo credit: Yoichi Okamoto / Public domain via Wikimedia

My Mother in-law's Dresses

Saturday 10 October, 2pm to 5pm
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Bookings

A reminiscence workshop dedicated to the memory of Girleyvine - a Windrush Pioneer - showcasing some of her beautiful dresses and photographs, documenting her arrival from Jamaica to West Norwood in 1958. Hopefully her dresses and personal photos will bring back those lost memories. Girley has left behind a wealth of memories for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to share and remember her by.



Bring your own photographs, bring the family and that favourite dress, come along and share your memories, share your stories. We have already lost too much.

[Workshop by Sonia Winifred, Windrush Campaigner, former Lambeth Councillor and Cabinet Member.](#)



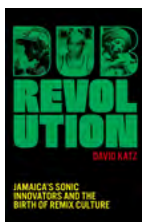


Dub Revolution: Jamaica's Sonic Innovators and the Birth of Remix Culture with David Katz

Monday 12 October, 6.30pm
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Bookings

Emerging as an underground phenomenon in Kingston during the early 1970s, dub was wrought by sonic alchemists such as King Tubby, Lee 'Scratch' Perry, Prince Jammy and Scientist, conjuring musical mutations at the mixing desk. Dub reached other lands through the Jamaican diaspora and as Lloyd 'Bullwackie' Barnes furthered the form in New York, Dennis Bovell, Mad Professor and Adrian Sherwood conjured their own dub masterworks in London.



Through first-hand testimony with dub's most noteworthy creatives, David Katz's monumental forensic history of an astounding subgenre, stands as the authoritative book on a musical art form that continues to fascinate generation after generation.

David will be joined in conversation by **Lloyd Bradley**, author of **Bass Culture: When Reggae Was King**.



Photo credit: Étienne Bordet

Jamaica Road with Lisa Smith

Tuesday 13 October, 7pm
Carnegie Library, SE24 0DG

Bookings

Join Lisa Smith to discuss **Jamaica Road** a transformative love story about two best friends who fall for each other, fall apart, and try to find their way back together in their tight-knit British-Jamaican community. Daphne is the only Black girl in her South London class in 1981. Her quiet life changes when Connie arrives from Jamaica. As their bond deepens against a city's unrest, family tensions and a perilous secret force them to navigate love, loyalty, and belonging over a turbulent decade.



Lisa Smith is a prizewinning writer from South London. She will be joined in conversation by **Mel Pennant**, author of **A Murder for Miss Hortense**.

Event organised with the Friends of Carnegie Library.



100 Black British Doctors

Wednesday 14 October, 6.30pm
South Lambeth Library, SW8 1JQ

Bookings

100 Black British Doctors is a powerful step toward visibility and inclusion in medicine. Created by the Future Medics Forum, the book shares real stories from Black doctors through the ages and across the UK, highlighting both their achievements and the challenges they've faced, to inspire the next generation of medics and healthcare professionals.



Through honest, lived experiences, the book opens up conversations around access, representation, and equity in healthcare. It also provides role models and lived experiences that reflect the reality of life in the medical frontline.

Join contributors to the book for discussion and networking – be inspired to be the next generation of medic or share your story of a life in medicine. Let's celebrate and highlight the contributions of African and Caribbean heritage doctors to the NHS, and provide powerful role models for young people.



Black Zine Fair

Saturday 17 October, 12pm to 4.30pm
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Bookings

Following in the great tradition of Black self-publishing, this fair will highlight a new generation of zinesters who are making cheap and affordable cut n' paste fanzines, perzines, art zines, writing and other works. Stalls confirmed so far include Waiting2XHair, Art As Activism, Stefan Zinemaker, Mary Keeps Going, Sweet-Thang zine, Creates.des and Rierites.



Photo credit: Art As Activism

There is still some space available so if you are a Black zine maker or a small press publication get in touch **BrixtonLendingLibrary@lambeth.gov.uk** for more info.



Black British Ballet Dance Workshop

Monday 19 October, 2pm
South Lambeth Library, SW8 1QP

Bookings

Come along to a dance session that mixes ballet with contemporary, African and Caribbean dance. Aimed at everyone from beginners to more experienced dancers, this fun and engaging workshop will be led by Royal Ballet School graduate, **Darren Panton**, from the Black British Ballet project. Book your place now!



Pioneers of Black British Ballet – In Conversation with Darren Panton

Monday 19 October, 7pm
Durning Library, SE11 4HF

Bookings

Black dancers have been present in British ballet from at least the 1940s onwards but the presence and contribution of these pioneers has been largely forgotten. The Black British Ballet project aims to change this by celebrating the lives of these trailblazers.

Darren Panton was the first Black dancer to graduate from the Royal Ballet School's White Lodge. He has danced with Rambert Contemporary Dance Company, Birmingham Royal Ballet and London City Ballet. He also worked with the Royal Ballet's **Chance To Dance** programme as a teacher.

Darren has performed in many theatre productions including **The Lion King** and **Notre Dame de Paris**. He has danced with artists like Blackstreet, Billie Piper and The Verve and performed with a wide array of artists including Beyonce, Usher, Diana Ross, Elton John and Kylie Minogue.

This event is organised with the Friends of Durning Library. Refreshments available (donation £3 suggested).



Photo credit: Oxygen Arts

Sky City with Jacqueline Crooks

Tuesday 20 October, 6.30pm
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Bookings

Join Jacqueline, the Women's Prize shortlisted author of **Fire Rush**, to discuss her latest novel **Sky City**.

London, the 1990s. After years in a hostel for young homeless women, Jaycee finally has a room of her own high up in Sky City, a north London housing estate. But escaping her past proves harder than she imagined.



Her best friend, Ella-G, has left for the glamour of New York's music



scene. Both are daughters searching for fathers. When a rare record offers a clue to Ella-G's father, they follow its trail to Atlantic City. There, Jaycee makes

discoveries that shake her sense of self and force her to confront the traumas she left behind. But can she finally find justice and healing?

Jacqueline will be joined in conversation by **Aditi Jaganathan**

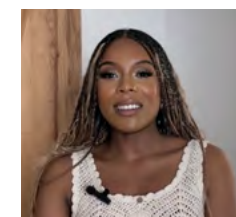
Open Readings & Publishing Q&A with Naya Antonio

Wednesday 21 October, 6pm to 8pm
Streatham Library, SW16 1PN

Bookings

Join London-based author and poet **Naya Antonio** for an evening celebrating storytelling, emerging voices, and the journey to publication. This is a welcoming space for unpublished writers to share their work, connect with fellow creatives, and gain insight into the realities of becoming a published author.

The evening will start with open readings, inviting writers to share a short extract of their work in a supportive and encouraging environment. Whether you write fiction, poetry, memoir, spoken word, or creative non-fiction, this is an opportunity to have your voice heard and celebrate the power of storytelling.



The second half is an informal Q&A with Naya Antonio, who will share her experiences as a published author and discuss the writing and publishing journey. Together, you'll explore topics such as developing your craft, finding confidence in your work, navigating the publishing industry, and building a sustainable creative practice. Whether you come to read, listen, or simply be inspired, you'll be welcomed into an evening of conversation, creativity, and community.



Charles Gimpel and Brixton

Thursday 22 October, 6.30pm
Lambeth Archives, SW2 1ET

Bookings

Why did Gimpel, a successful West End gallerist, repeatedly come to Brixton all through the 1960s to photograph Black families in their houses, on their doorsteps, at their weddings and down their pubs? His highly personal photographs are the work of a friend rather than of a commercial photographer.



Photo credit: Charles Gimpel

Join public historian **Kelly Foster** in conversation with **Charles Beauchamp**, Gimpel's son, and **Jon Newman**, curator of the exhibition to learn more about an extraordinary man and his evocative photos of life in Brixton.

Poetry Night: Stories, Voices & Conversations

Tuesday 27 October, 6.30pm
Clapham Library, SW4 7DB

Bookings

Poetry Night is hosted and co-compèred by **Dee Majek** and **Alex Murdock**, alongside a line-up of guest poets, including **Maia Watkins** and more for an inspiring Black History Month evening of poetry, spoken word and conversation.

The readers will share powerful original work exploring themes such as Black history, identity, heritage, resilience, belonging, community and contemporary lived experience.

More than a series of performances, this is an opportunity to listen, reflect and take part. Following each reading, Dee and Alex will invite audience questions and conversation, creating a shared space to explore the stories and themes that the work raises.

Come and celebrate the richness, diversity and power of poetry, stories and shared conversation.



Fire Inna Dancehall with Derek A Bardowell

Thursday 29 October, 6.30pm
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Bookings

Dancehall isn't just music. It's a philosophy, a survival strategy, a rebellion in riddim.

Fire Inna Dancehall traces the collision of sound, style and struggle that created one of the most influential cultural movements of the past half-century. From inner city Kingston to the council estates of London, the block parties of New York and the underground scenes of Panama and Puerto Rico, ex-reggae columnist Derek A. Bardowell charts the rise, triumphs, controversies and tragedies of a space where joy and resistance share the same rhythm.

A comprehensive guide to the people, places and politics that shaped dancehall and an unapologetic tribute to Black creativity, **Fire Inna Dancehall** does not seek permission to sing but insists on being heard.



Lambeth LGBTQ+ book group discuss The Late Americans

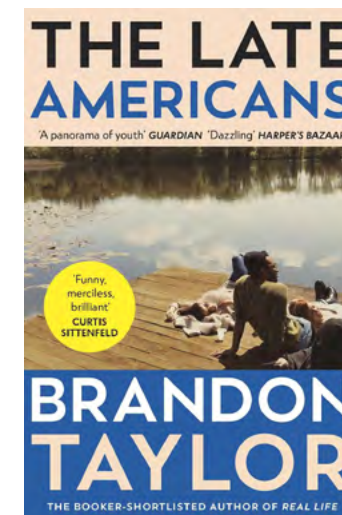
Friday 30 October, 7pm
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Bookings

Join the Lambeth LGBTQ+ book group to discuss **The Late Americans** by Brandon Taylor.

Seamus, Fyodor, Ivan, Noah and Fatima are running out of time to decide on their futures. In a university town, this circle of lovers and friends ask themselves: what is the right thing to stake a life on? Work, love, money, dance, poetry? Is love possible without harm? And what does true connection look like in an age of precarity?

To borrow a copy of the book please email **Zoe** at ZCDixon@lambeth.gov.uk. This event is also hybrid, so please do book a place to receive Zoom details.





Black Indie Author/Illustrator Fair

Saturday 31 October,
2.30pm to 5.30pm
Upper Norwood Library, SE19 1TQ

Bookings

Are you an independent, self-published Black author or illustrator and want to showcase and sell your work? Whichever audience your book is for, our special Black History Month Book Fair is for you.

For more information and to book a table, please email Zoey at zcdixon@lambeth.gov.uk



Kanopy Film Screening: Black Boys followed by discussion

Monday 2 November, 6.30pm
Minet Library, SE5 9QY

Bookings

Black Boys illuminates the spectrum of black male humanity in America. An intimate, inter-generational exploration, **Black Boys** strives

for insight to Black identity and opportunity at the nexus of sports, education and criminal justice.

Directed by Sonia Lowman 2020
1hr 30min English subtitles.

The screening will be followed by a discussion on the themes raised in the film and how we can relate to it as a British audience.



What We Leave We Carry: Voices of Migration to Britain with Colin Grant

Tuesday 10 November, 6.30pm
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Bookings

What do we leave behind when we move to a new place – and what do we carry with us, physically and emotionally, wherever we land?

Here are the voices of people who have come to Britain to make a new life: a Czech-Roma lawyer in Reading, an Iranian taxi driver in Shropshire, a Sierra Leonean actor in Northampton, a Romanian police officer in Edinburgh.

Colin Grant has travelled the country and listened to their stories – foundational tales of arriving in a new land, along with rarely spoken stories of love and loss. Together, these accounts ask questions about assimilation, identity, belonging and the emotional cost of migration in twenty-first-century Britain.

Photo credit: Maya Elsie



Candid, profoundly human, sometimes funny and always moving, **What We Leave We Carry** is a chance to listen to Britain – in all its richness and complexity.

Colin Grant is an author, historian and critic. His most recent book, **I'm Black So You Don't Have to Be** was a New Statesman Book of the Year.

Colin will be joined in conversation by actress, director and writer **Anni Domingo** and writer **Isabelle Dupuy**.

Joslyn Walker Peart: Crossing Time

Thursday 1 October to 30 October
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Exhibition available during Library
opening hours

Crossing Time is an exhibition celebrating the work of the late Jamaican artist Joslyn Walker Peart.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1923, Peart later worked in the plantations of South Carolina before travelling to Britain in 1949 aboard the Empire Windrush. He settled in Birmingham, where he worked at the BSA factory for many years.

Following his retirement, Peart moved to Herefordshire, where he developed his preference for painting with oils.



His work includes both personal and reflective histories, depicting the transatlantic slave trade alongside the tranquil landscapes of the British countryside that surrounded him.



Together, these paintings form a powerful visual journey - from the trauma and resilience of the past to the peace and beauty of his later life in rural Britain. Through his art, Peart explored themes of memory, migration, identity, and belonging.

**Opening Launch: Tuesday 6 October
6pm to 8pm**

Bookings:



From Mayfair to Brixton: the photography of Charles Gimpel

Monday 5 October to 31 October
Lambeth Archives, SW2 1ET

Exhibition available during Archive
opening hours

Charles Gimpel was a successful Mayfair art gallery owner who had come to London from France at the end of the war. As well as representing artists like Henry Moore, Jackson Pollock and Barbara Hepworth, he was a keen amateur photographer.

This exhibition of his work, which was only recently discovered by his sons and passed to Lambeth Archives, focuses on an extraordinary series of photographs he took of the Black community in Brixton during the 1960s.



Lanceford Brown: Uncommonwealth

Tuesday 6 October to 2 November
Durning Library, SE11 4HF

Exhibition available during Library
opening hours

The Commonwealth includes wealthy nations like the UK and Canada. It also includes developing countries. Small island nations that have different needs compared to massive countries like India or Australia. There is no parity across the Commonwealth, and this shows major gaps in wealth, size, and political rights. This exhibition explores themes of unity and resistance, the lens of what the artist has called 'Uncommonwealth'.

Lanceford Brown works primarily in acrylic and water colours. His work has featured in the BP Portrait Award 2004, and he was a contestant on Sky Portrait Artist of the Year.

**Opening Launch:
Wednesday 7 October, 6pm to 8pm**

Bookings:





Stories of Sudan: Lives, Memories and Connections Reaching Across Africa and Beyond

Monday 19 October to
Sunday 25 October
Streatham Library,
SW16 1PN

Exhibition available during Library opening hours

Discover a unique exhibition bringing together historical photographs of Sudan taken in the 1970s by photographer Jill Orpen and artworks created today by children taking part in Green Kordofan's art programme in Yida refugee camp, South Sudan.

Meet the people, places and stories behind the photographs, and discover Sudan through the eyes of those who know it best. Together, the photographs and artworks tell stories of everyday life, memory, creativity and resilience across about 50 years.

Jill Orpen donated this collection of photographs to Green Kordofan for exhibition and to raise funds. Sales from the exhibition will help Green Kordofan provide art and music classes, sports activities and other educational opportunities for children displaced by war in Yida refugee camp.

Opening Launch:
Monday 19 October, 3pm

Bookings:

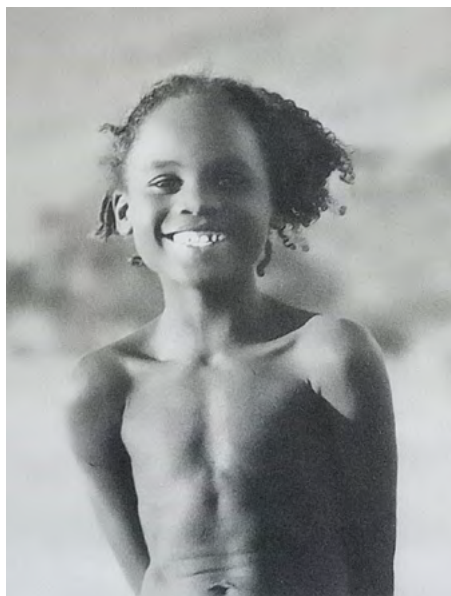


Photo credit: Jill Orpen

David Tarbox: Bomb The Format

Wednesday 4 November
to 30 November
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Exhibition available during Library opening hours

David Tarbox's artwork explores the energy of the city and music using the symbols of old school media formats cassettes, ghetto blasters and 12" covers which are bombed with pens and spray paint and holes. This is the only type of bombing that is acceptable.

David Tarbox is a Brixton based Artist.

Opening Launch:
Thursday 5 November, 6pm to 8pm

Bookings:

Further information:
Instagram: @tarbox_arts
www.tarboxarts.com



Practising Beauty: Self-Assertion and Collective Power

Thursday 12 November
to 10 December
Lambeth Archives, SW2 1ET

Exhibition available during Archive opening hours

Practising Beauty: Self-Assertion and Collective Power traces how Black women in Britain have used beauty culture as a space of cultural, political, and economic self-assertion and collective power, from the Windrush generation of the late 1940s to the present day. Drawing on archival material and oral history, Practising Beauty functions as a counter-archive designed to disrupt the coloniality of aesthetics and to replace a singular, white-centred history of beauty with a pluralistic, anti-racist ontology of Black aesthetics.

The curator, **Dr Benedetta Morsiani**, Research Fellow at Brunel University of London, is grateful to The Leverhulme Trust and Brunel University of London, which financially supported this work.



Photo credit: Harry Jacobs Collection at Lambeth Archives

Brunel
University
of London

LEVERHULME
TRUST



This October, get ready to travel through time and discover amazing Black stories, people, cultures and achievements!

Lambeth Libraries is celebrating Black History Month with an exciting Time Travel theme. Children and families can explore different periods in history through fun activities, stories, quizzes, displays and more.

Where will your time-travel adventure take you? From exploring the past to discovering inspiring people and events from the present day, there will be something for children of all ages to enjoy.



Chatterbooks Clubs

Calling all book-loving youngsters aged 7 to 11 - come and chatter, get involved in fun and creative activities and choose new books to read. This October, we're celebrating incredible Black British Icons, from the trailblazing nurse Mary Seacole to the inspiring space scientist Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock, the brilliant author Alex Wheatle, the poet Benjamin Zephaniah, and many more.

Brixton Library.
Wednesdays, 4pm.

West Norwood Library.
Wednesdays, 4pm.

Minet Library.
Third Monday of each month, 4.30pm.

Carnegie Library.
Last Monday of each month, 4pm.



Rooted: Celebrating Black Identity

A creative family workshop celebrating Black identity, heritage and self-confidence during Black History Month hosted by Harieth Sedrick-Ugo, Founder, Mothers Recharge.

Through storytelling, creativity and hands-on activities, children and their families will explore identity, culture and belonging in a welcoming and engaging space. Together, we'll celebrate Black stories, discover inspiring books and encourage children to take pride in who they are and where they come from.

Suitable for families with children aged 3 to 10 years.

Saturday 10 October,
10.30am to 12.30pm
Minet Library, SE5 9QY

Bookings:

Build a Windrush Suitcase

Step into the story of Windrush! Join us for a fun, hands-on journey exploring the experiences of Caribbean people who came to Britain. Discover what they might have packed for their journey, then get creative and make your very own pretend Windrush suitcase. Decorate a shoebox-sized cardboard suitcase and fill it with drawings or notes of the special things you would take on an exciting journey. What would you pack? What would you miss? What would remind you of home? **Ages 5 to 12 years.**

Tuesday 27 October, 2.30pm to 4pm.
Clapham Library, SW4 7DB



Photo credit: Courtesy of the Windrush Foundation



Make a Jigsaw Puzzle

Create your own special Black History Month jigsaw puzzle. You could put together a collage of inspirational Black people, re-create some art by Frank Bowling or Lubaina Himid or use African prints to create your puzzle pieces to take home, share and put back together again. **Ages 4 to 12 years.**



Tuesday 27 October, 2.30pm to 4pm.
Upper Norwood Library, SE19 1TQ

African Fabric Printing



This half term, children can try their hand at fabric printing. They'll create beautiful and bold designs similar to the printing technique that is used in Ankara. Traditionally created using the wax-resist printing technique, this fascinating method uses wax to create beautiful patterns and vibrant designs that are an important part of African cultural heritage. Join us for a fun and educational celebration of culture, creativity, and history. **Ages 4 to 12 years.**

Wednesday 28 October, 2.30pm to 4pm.
Minet Library, SE5 9QY

Mary Seacole's Medical Kit

Become a history helper! Mary Seacole was a courageous nurse and businesswoman who travelled to care for sick and wounded soldiers. Imagine you're travelling like Mary Seacole! Decorate your own pretend medical case and draw or write the things you think she might have packed to help people along the way. **Ages 5 to 12 years.**



Public domain via Wikimedia

Wednesday 28 October, 2.30pm to 4pm.
West Norwood Library, SE27 9JU

Make Your Mark: Black History Badge Making

Celebrate the inspiring pioneers, heroes and icons who have made their mark on history! Join us for a fun and creative badge-making session where children can discover amazing people, learn about their achievements and create their very own badge inspired by a Black history hero, pioneer or famous person. **Ages 5 to 12 years.**



Wednesday 28 October, 2pm to 3pm.
Durning Library, SE11 4HF

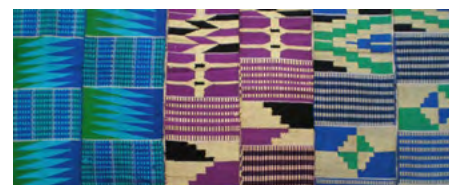
Friday 30 October, 2pm to 3pm.
Waterloo Library, SE1 8AZ

Kente Cloth Crafts

Celebrate Black heritage with this paper crafts activity inspired by the Kente cloths of Ghana. Weave colourful paper and add your own geometric designs and patterns to take home, or weave together in our very own big Brixton kente quilt.

All ages, recommended 2 to 14

Thursday 29 October, 11am.
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ



Claudia Jones Mini Newspaper

Meet Claudia Jones, a journalist, campaigner and community organiser whose work helped shape the tradition of the Notting Hill Carnival. Discover her story and then become a journalist yourself! Create your own newspaper front page featuring a headline, pictures and stories about Claudia Jones and her incredible contribution.

Ages 5 to 12 years.

Friday 30 October, 2.30pm to 4pm.
South Lambeth Library, SW8 1QP



Public domain via Wikimedia

Make a Carnival Headdress

Bring the colours, creativity and excitement of Carnival to life! Design and decorate your own carnival-inspired headdress, filled with colour, patterns and imagination. Learn a little about the traditions behind Notting Hill Carnival while creating something spectacular to take home. Create it and wear it!

Ages 5 to 12 years.

Friday 30 October, 2.30pm to 4pm.
Carnegie Library, SE24 0DG

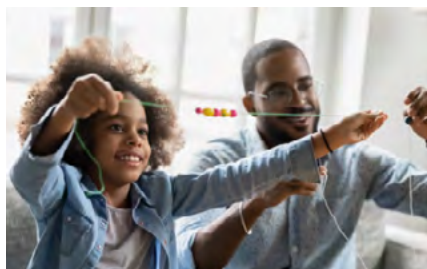


Under 5s Sessions

Traditional Tales for Under 5s - Step into a world of stories, songs, and rhymes! This October, our regular Under 5s sessions will be filled with traditional tales brought to life through storytelling, music, and activities for little ones to join in. From classic favourites to magical folktales in celebration of Black History Month, it's the perfect way for children to enjoy the rhythm of language and spark their imaginations. For further information, contact your local library.

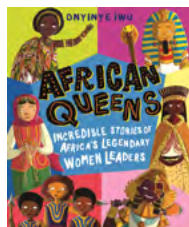
Library Visits

Schools can enjoy visits to their local library throughout the month of October listening to traditional stories and folklore. Contact your local library to book your visit – see back page for library contact details.



Onyinye Iwu – African Queens

Meet the legendary women leaders from all over Africa who defended their kingdoms and fought against invaders: from Queen Hatshepsut of ancient Egypt to the fierce Amazon Warriors of Dahomey and many more.



Children will hear Onyinye read a selection of stories about these amazing women and then get a chance to play some interactive games to test their newfound knowledge. **Years 3 & 4.**

Monday 5 October, 10am.
Brixton Library

Contact Zoey for school bookings at
ZCDixon@Lambeth.gov.uk

Pioneers of Black British Ballet: Creative writing workshop

Are you more of a young poet or a critic or a blogger? Whoever you are, take your skills back in time to explore the stories of Black British ballet dancers. Using images and quotes, we'll do some activities together before getting you ready to write your masterpiece - or silly piece! **For Year 6 children.**



Photo credit: Marsha Lowe

Monday 5 October, 10.30am.
West Norwood Library

Contact West Norwood
Library for school bookings at
WestNorwoodLibrary@lambeth.gov.uk



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ENGLAND**



The Cowrie Shell

Explore the significance of Cowrie shells in the African slave trade, and how the shell has continued to be a symbol of prosperity in the modern African diaspora. How, what began as an ancient African symbol of wealth, power, and fertility, was weaponized by European merchants into a tool of mass exploitation and a global currency to purchase and traffic millions of enslaved people from West Africa during the transatlantic slave trade. This is a very interactive STEAM workshop with pupils using prints. Each pupil will be gifted with a shell along with taking their pieces of print artwork home. **Years 2 to 6.**

Monday 5 October,
2 sessions, 10.30am and 12pm.
Durning Library

Contact Arthur for school bookings at
ALech@lambeth.gov.uk



100 Black British Doctors

Join Black British medics and contributors to the book **100 Black British Doctors** for discussion and a presentation on what it is to work in medicine –highlighting the contributions of African and Caribbean heritage doctors to the NHS and providing powerful role models and inspiring young people to be the next generation of Medics.

Wednesday 14 October 2pm.
South Lambeth Library

Contact South Lambeth
Library for school bookings at
southlambethlibrary@lambeth.gov.uk





Roots and Roti with Kat François

A young Black boy learns Black British history through a beloved grandmother amid a difficult experience of bullying and racism. This novel-in-verse tells the tale of a tall Black teen nicknamed Tiny and his struggles in twenty-first century London, echoing experiences still encountered by too many Black teens around the country. Written by poet, playwright and educator Kat François, it is a vital story that young readers do not often get the opportunity to read about. **Years 7 to 9.**



Monday 19 October, 10am.
Clapham Library

Contact Sandra for school bookings at sdavidson@lambeth.gov.uk



Stories of Sudan: Lives, Memories and Connections Reaching Across Africa and Beyond

Children can discover a unique exhibition bringing together historical photographs of Sudan taken in the 1970s and artworks created today by children taking part in Green Kordofan's art programme in Yida refugee camp, South Sudan. Meet the people, places and stories behind the photographs, and discover Sudan through the eyes of those who know it best.

School visits will be available for local primary and secondary schools, with age-appropriate exhibition trails, workshops and creative activities led by photographer Jill Orpen. **For KS1, KS2 and secondary pupils.**

Monday 19 October to Friday 23 October,
2 sessions available per day 9.30am and 1.30pm. Streatham Library

Contact Streatham Library for school bookings at streathamlibrary@lambeth.gov.uk



Photo credit: Jill Orpen

Other Events

International Translation Day 2026: Translators, and...?

Wednesday 30 September,
7.15pm (doors 7pm)
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

£20 (Standard)/£10 (Concession).
Booking via English PEN Website

English PEN's International Translation Day programme returns with an evening of conversations between translators and their allies, in which three translators speak to figures from bookselling, publishing, and online influence, asking what we need from each other in the coming years.

Over the course of three conversations, translator **Nichola Smalley** will chair a series of discussions exploring the world of literary translation. She will be joined by translator **Sawad Hussain** and bookseller **Alison Henry** to discuss recent developments in the field. In a second conversation, she will speak with translator, writer, and editor **Daniel Hahn** and **Kishani Widiyaratna**, publishing director at 4th Estate, about what it means to translate, what it means to publish translated literature, and why translation matters in an increasingly fragile and fragmented world.

Finally, translator **Annie McDermott** will join independent bookseller, translator, and host of the It's Lit in Translation podcast, **Evelyn Heis**, to explore how literature in translation is shaped by different forms of marketing and influence.

International Translation Day is a UNESCO day celebrating translation and translators, and this event is made possible by the generous support of the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS).

Explore the full English **PENITD** programme which includes online and in-person workshops.



THE LAMBETH FRINGE

The Magic Sweet Jar with Weaver Line Theatre

Saturday 10 October, 2.30pm
West Norwood Library, SE27 9JU

Tickets £8/£6.

Booking via Lambeth Fringe

A magical family musical for ages 5+ featuring original songs, live music, puppetry, storytelling and audience participation. The story follows Louisa's adventure through the magical world of Sweetland, exploring themes of friendship, courage and kindness in an engaging and accessible way.



Humdinger Words for Whippersnappers & Guttersnipes with Ben Dali

Saturday 17 October, 2.30pm
West Norwood Library, SE27 9JU

Tickets £10/£8.

Booking via

A comedy-cabaret poetry show for ages 8+, presented by former stage hypnotist and primary school teacher Ben Dali. The interactive performance combines poetry, language, balloon modelling, improvised rhyming and audience participation in a fun and educational family show.

A large photograph of a young man with orange hair, wearing large headphones and a red and black plaid shirt. He is lying on his stomach on a grassy lawn, smiling. In the background, there are trees and a stack of books on the grass.Two smartphones are shown at the bottom left of the advertisement. The left phone displays the Libby app interface, showing a search bar and a list of books. The right phone displays the Borrowbox app interface, showing a book cover for 'Where the Crawdads Sing'.The Borrow Box logo, which consists of a green square with a white speech bubble icon and the text 'Borrow Box.' below it.A circular logo with a stylized face inside. The face has a red head with a blue bow and a yellow smile. The logo is set against a dark background.

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Get the Libby and Borrowbox app

Lambeth Libraries

Libraries Contact details:

Brixton Library,

Brixton Oval, SW2 1JQ.

Tel: 020 7926 1058

Carnegie Library,

192 Herne Hill Road, SE24 0DG.

Tel: 020 7926 6050

Clapham Library,

Mary Seacole Centre,

91 Clapham High Street, SW4 7DB.

Tel: 020 7926 0717

Durning Library,

167 Kennington Lane, SE11 4HF.

Tel: 020 7926 8682

Minet Library,

52 Knatchbull Road, SE5 9QY.

Tel: 020 7926 6073

Streatham Library,

63 Streatham High Road, SW16 1PN.

Tel: 020 7926 6768

Tate South Lambeth Library,

180 South Lambeth Road, SW8 1QP.

Tel: 020 7926 0705

Upper Norwood Library,

39-41 Westow Hill, SE19 1TQ.

Tel: 020 7926 1063

Waterloo Library,

30 Wootton St, SE1 8AZ.

Tel: 020 7926 8751

West Norwood Library,

1-5 Norwood High Street, SE27 9JU.

Tel: 020 7926 8092

Lambeth Archives,

16 Brixton Hill, London SW2 1ET.

Tel: 020 7926 6076.

This information was believed to be correct at the time it was published but may be subject to changes and circumstances outside of the control of the organisers. For more events and information visit

www.lambeth.gov.uk/events.

For Library bookings: All library events can be found at

www.eventbrite.com/o/lambeth-libraries-17776185319

Otherwise for further details please phone the local library or email

Blackhistorymonth@lambeth.gov.uk