Black History Month

A celebration of history, arts, literature and film

A guide to events in Lambeth - Autumn 2017

www.lambeth.gov.uk/bhm

Lambeth Libraries
Introduction

I am delighted to invite you to this year’s Black History Month celebrations, which will be running throughout October. Last year so many of you told us how inspiring and uplifting you found the events and this year’s programme is equally as exciting.

Hopefully there is something for all ages and all tastes. Please take this wonderful opportunity to learn about and celebrate African Caribbean Heritage and Culture, which influence and enrich all our lives.

Lambeth Libraries have partnered with Pegasus Opera, Rhythm & Views Festival, Age UK Lambeth, Black Cultural Archives, along with a selection of brilliant writers and artists, to deliver this fantastic programme of events.

I hope you will join us.

Cllr Sonia Winifred
Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture
Programme events

Writing in the Age of Black Lives Matter with Patrice Lawrence

Wednesday 4 October, 7pm. Brixton Library

Patrice Lawrence, winner of the Bookseller YA book prize, and author Patrick Vernon discuss the role of Black writers as activists in a world where racism is rising and the Ku Klux Klan are marching again in America. While the Tate Modern considers the relationship of Black artists to the struggle in 1960s America and asks what role should artists play today, we, in turn, ask what responsibilities sit with Black writers? Should they merely mirror contemporary society or are they agents of social change?

James Baldwin: I Am Not Your Negro - Film showing (93 mins)

Thursday 5 October, 7pm. Streatham Library

Rhythm & Views Film Festival presents: I Am Not Your Negro. Told entirely in the words of James Baldwin, through both personal appearances and the text of his final unfinished book project, I Am Not Your Negro touches on the lives and assassinations of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr and Medgar Evers to bring powerful clarity to how the image and reality of Black people in America today are fabricated and enforced.

Starring: Samuel L. Jackson, James Baldwin, Martin Luther King

Tickets: Eventbrite

I Am Not Your Negro film screening or ring Streatham Library on 020 7926 6768

Pegasus Opera

Saturday 7 October, 7pm. Brixton Library

Pegasus Opera Company, based in Brixton, brings us an evening to celebrate Black presence in opera.

Come join us in celebrating Black British singers and take a musical historical journey to hear pieces about Queen Nanny of the Maroons in Jamaica, celebrated African American poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Margaret Garner (the woman who inspired Toni Morrison’s Beloved). The programme includes a piece based on events in Nigeria written by Wole Soyinka and another set in colonial India.

Pegasus Opera showcases the works of Black composers whose music will be heard in England for the first time this Black History Month... and of course the evening will end with some audience participation, so bring your best voice.

Kings & Queens Book Tour: What happens when a King finds a Queen?

Sunday 8 October, 5pm. Brixton Library

Join Cezanne at this interactive book signing and discussion event, where you will find out what happens when Kings and Queens meet! This is the last day of the Kings & Queens Book Tour exploring what it means to be a King or a Queen, how to identify what type of Queen or King you are and looking at how we can repair the damage caused to our relationships by slavery and colonialism. Hosted by Cezanne, author of Journey of a Sister, and joined by two authors from the USA, King Kevin Dorival, (7 Types of Queens, Kings Desire), and T.C.Carrier (The Secret Science of Black Male and Female Sex).

Tickets: Eventbrite Price £5

Kings & Queens book tour

For more info: www.journeyofasister.com
Uncomfortable Conversations on Culture, Identity and Belonging: The practice of FGM as a rite of passage in the 21st Century

Wednesday 11 October, 11am to 8pm. Streatham Library

Uncomfortable Conversations is a FORWARD community conversation project that empowers communities in the African diaspora to raise social and cultural issues that are difficult to discuss. In particular, harmful traditional practices and gender based violence. This event features an open forum for African communities to discuss why we continue to practise FGM as a rite of passage in the 21st century and the challenges of talking to communities back home. Come along and be part of the discussion.

The day will include a display of support services available in Lambeth, food and refreshments, a drop-in service for support and advice on FGM from 11am – 2pm and guest panellists and focus group discussions 5pm – 8pm.

The Achievement of Black Caribbean Pupils in Schools

Thursday 12 October, 6pm. International House, Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Crescent, Brixton, London SW9 7QE

Join us for an evening of discussion on the achievement of Black Caribbean pupils, as part of celebrating Black History Month. Dr Feyisa Demie will introduce new ground breaking research by sharing good practice evidence of how effective teaching and learning in the classroom, parental engagement, links with the Black community and the church, and effective use of a diverse multi-ethnic workforce in schools have helped Black Caribbean pupils in bucking the national trend. There will also be a discussion on the use of Black experiences to enrich the curriculum in art, dance, music, geography, history and technology.

The format of the session is interactive and includes presentation, question and answer time and open discussion.

Is Black History Month still important for young people today? Discussion introduced by Shakira Martin (President National Union of Students) and Chuka Umunna (Streatham MP)

Friday 13 October, 11am. Streatham Library

Black History in school is usually only taught during Black History Month and even at the best of schools is often reduced to three parts: slavery, a watered down version of the Civil Rights Movement and a handful of Black inventors. As the news reports daily issues of racial inequality and discrimination, deaths in police custody and unrest in America, surely it is time for a more in-depth understanding of Black History and why, for young people in particular, knowing your past can change your future?

Booking essential: Contact blackhistorymonth@lambeth.gov.uk

The Fire Next Time – Brixton Radical Reads book group special

Friday 13 October, 7pm. Brixton Library

Join the reading group to discuss The Fire Next Time, the landmark work on race in America from James Baldwin, whose life and words are immortalized in the Oscar-nominated film I Am Not Your Negro.

James Baldwin’s impassioned plea to ‘end the racial nightmare’ in America was a bestseller when it appeared in 1963, galvanising a nation and giving voice to the emerging Civil Rights Movement. Told in the form of two intensely personal ‘letters’, The Fire Next Time is at once a powerful evocation of Baldwin’s early life in Harlem and an excoriating condemnation of the terrible legacy of racial injustice.

To borrow a copy of the book please contact the library on 020 7926 1056.
Writing Africa's Futures: Fantasy Africa or Fantastical Africa

Monday 16 October, 6.45pm (7.15pm start). Durning Library

‘Speculative fiction [noun] a genre of fiction that encompasses works in which the setting is other than the real world, involving supernatural, futuristic, or other imagined elements’.

Join Lambeth Libraries for a fantastical evening with Nigerian writer Chikodili Emelumadu, shortlisted this year for The Caine Prize, and South African novelist and short-story writer Henrietta Rose-Innes, to discuss futuristic writing in Africa today. This event is organised with The Caine Prize and in association with The Friends of Durning Library.

Refreshments will be available for a suggested £2 donation.

Black Gay Ink

Wednesday 18 October, 7pm.
Brixton Library

Black gay men’s writers’ group ‘Black Gay Ink’ invites you to an evening looking at Black British gay writing, past, present and future. You will hear about The rukus! Archive at the London Metropolitan Archives and BlackOut UK, a community based organisation run by Black gay men, plus readings from the ‘Black Gay Ink’ writers’ group itself.

Join us for an informative and entertaining night looking at the past, present and future.

For more information about BlackOut UK https://blkoutuk.com

Britain on Film: Black Britain film showing (91mins)

Friday 20 October, 7pm.
Clapham Library

‘Britain on Film on Tour’ explores the vital history of Black Britain throughout the 20th century. Bringing together films from 1901 to 1985 and taken from many different regions of the UK, it offers incredibly rare, little-seen and valuable depictions of Black British life on screen.

Revealing new voices from across a century of vast and turbulent social change in the UK, Britain on Film: Black Britain is not just an important educative tool exploring stories of migration, community and the struggle against inequality - but also an opportunity to celebrate vivid Black British life and culture on screen.

Spice of Africa market day

Saturday 21 October, 10am to 4pm.
Tate South Lambeth Library

Tate Community Market will be featuring “Spice of Africa” on Saturday 14 October. The event will include food stalls and fashion from local African and Caribbean businesses and live music and dance performances. All welcome.
Vinyl Memories: Songs of survival and belonging
Tuesday 24 October, 2pm. Tate South Lambeth Library
Join Lambeth Black elders for Vinyl Memories with Kwaku from the Black Music Congress. Bring along your favourite Black music vinyl from the 70s, 60s or even the 50s! Music that reminds you of leaving home, arriving in a new home or simply dancing, loving, surviving... You can bring along your records but do let us know beforehand so we can be prepared. Send your top three tracks for the afternoon to todell@lambeth.gov.uk and hopefully we can get them played and you can tell us why they have meaning for you. You never know you may get the crowd dancing!

Remembering Sam King: A tribute to a community champion
Friday 27 October, 7pm. Brixton Library
Black Stock Media and IN TRIBUTE®, in association with Lambeth Library Services, present an evening reception to celebrate the life and work of Sam King, political activist, ex-serviceman, Windrush passenger and community pioneer. An appreciation with performance, spoken word and music including a special performance by ENO Bass-Baritone Keel Watson. Refreshments on sale. Early booking essential.

Tickets Eventbrite
Black History Month tribute to Sam King

Uncover the Roots of British Black Gospel
Saturday 28 October, 1pm to 2pm. Black Cultural Archives, 1 Windrush Square, SW2 1EF
Steve Alexander Smith will discuss his research for his recent book British Black Gospel. Steve Alexander Smith is a medical laboratory scientist by profession but has researched and produced this book concerning the foundations of this vibrant British sound.

Tickets Eventbrite Price £3
Uncover the roots of British Black Gospel

Lambeth Caribbean Family History Surgery
Saturday 28 October, 2pm to 5pm. Waterloo Library, Oasis Centre
The Black Cultural Archives works from the heart of Lambeth, giving a special acknowledgement to the individuals and families who came to Lambeth seeking a better life and to contribute to the economy of Britain. S.I.Martin is one of the UK’s foremost researchers specialising in the experience of Britain’s Black communities. He will be available to answer questions on a one-to-one basis on family history and give advice on starting your family tree. Drop in to see him – bring along your family photos and stories and maybe you’ll be in the Black Cultural Archive!
What Happened, Miss Simone?
Film showing (1hr 41mins)
Friday 3 November, 7pm.
Durning Library
Rhythm & Views Film
Festival presents:
What Happened, Miss Simone? A fascinating
Oscar-nominated
documentary about Nina Simone,
outstanding civil rights activist and
one of the greatest musicians of her
generation. This film name-checks
a who’s-who of political, social and
cultural activism, from Malcolm X
and Martin Luther King, to Stokely
Carmichael and Dick Gregory.
Director: Liz Garbus (2015) Cert. 15
Tickets
What Happened Miss Simone
Film Screening
or ring Durning Library on
020 7926 8682

Common Ties 9
Thursday 16 November,
6.30pm to 9pm. Clapham Library
An evening of celebration and
promotion of Caribbean heritage
and culture.
A range of guest contributions,
performances, and presentations
will entertain, enthuse and enthral,
whilst also helping us all to reaffirm
those “Common Ties” which bound
together our parents, grandparents
and ancestors throughout our history,
and sustain us today.
You will be part of an evening which
will allow us to remember, celebrate,
and look forward to preserving the
culture from which the proverbs came.
Tickets

Exhibition
Black Sound - Black British music's journey
of creative independence
7 April – 4 November
Black Cultural Archives, 1 Windrush Square, SW2 1EF
Black Sound tells the story of 100 years of musical creativity and DIY ingenuity.
Overcoming the majority status quo of the music industry, Black British music has
migrated from the margins to re-master the mainstream. This exhibition celebrates
the pioneers that made it happen – the players, the promoters, the producers and
the punters that changed Britain's cultural history.
Free admission. The exhibition experience includes an audio-guided tour for £3.
Opening times: Tues-Sat, 10am – 6pm (5.30pm last entry)
Share and follow us @bcaheritage #BlackSound #SoundofaGeneration
facebook.com/bcaheritage
The BCA also runs activities, talks and events throughout the year.
Visit the website at www.bcaheritage.org.uk/programme
Children and Young People’s Events

Welcome to 2017 Black History Month for Children and Young People. The focus for children and young people this year will be women who have made a positive contribution to our society such as Mary Seacole, Bessie Coleman and Michelle Obama.

There are a range of activities and events organised for children and young people to enjoy and learn elements of Black History and there are events arranged specifically for schools. School visits are welcomed throughout the month of October with activities based around our theme. To arrange a visit please contact your local library.

Events for school bookings

History of Anancy - An African Journey

Monday 9 October, 10.30am. Clapham Library.

Based on her book An African Journey, author Barbara Ellis takes pupils on a journey through time and history, joining Breda and Sister Anancy, they travel as far back as the 15th Century when Christopher Columbus ran aground on the rocky shoreline of Haiti and learn about the consequences it had for the local Taino people.

Year group 3 to 6

Is Black History Month still important for young people today? Discussion introduced by Shakira Martin (President National Union of Students) and Chuka Umunna (Streatham MP)

Friday 13 October, 11am. Streatham Library

Black history in school is usually only taught during Black History Month and even at the best of schools black history is often reduced to three parts: slavery, a watered down version of the Civil Rights Movement and a handful of black inventors. As the news reports daily issues of racial inequality and discrimination, deaths in police custody and unrest in America, surely it’s time for a more in-depth understanding of black history and why, for young people in particular, knowing your past can change your future?

Booking essential: Contact blackhistorymonth@lambeth.gov.uk

The Hidden Treasures Within with author Lorna Liverpool

Tuesday 17 October, 10.30am. South Lambeth Library

Author Lorna Liverpool joins us to tell the story of Kaa’hina who has been learning about the rich history of Ancient Kemet and all the powerful deities that existed there. On a school trip, she and her friends visit the Museum of Ancient Kemet. Mysteriously, Kaa’hina’s Ankh (ancient Egyptian cross) starts to float through the air towards an Ankh impression on the museum’s pyramid. As it slides into place, and Kaa’hina touches it, the Ankh gives off a magical green glow and Grandma Pea appears. Follow Kaa’hina’s adventures.

Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase (£6.99)

Year groups 3 to 6

The Adventures of Zolie Zi with author Sonya J Bowser

Monday 30 October, 1.30pm. Streatham Library

Monday 30 October, 10.30am. Brixton Library

Tuesday 31 October, 10.30am. Durning Library

American author Sonya J. Bowser visits Lambeth Libraries during BHM, introducing Zolie Zi, the main character and narrator in a realistic and comical series of children’s books. Introduced as a second grader at Helping Hands Academy for Gifted and Talented Children, Zolie has many normal characteristics: respect for her parents, love of reading, a love of science, and she asks a lot of questions because she wants to know why and because she is Zolie Zi and don’t you forget it!

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and a chance to win some Zolie Zi merchandise

Year groups 3 to 6

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Year groups 3 to 6
Children’s Library events

Kofi and the Magic Shaker
(Storytelling for Children with Additional Needs)

Monday 2 October, 2pm. Clapham Library
Friday 20 October, 2pm. Durning Library

Celebrate Black History Month and join in these specialist storytelling sessions developed for children with additional needs using special props to tell stories.

Kofi is sitting under a coconut tree trying to keep cool when he is approached by a spider who offers a magical solution to the heat!

Booking essential

African Kuduro Dance Workshop
Tuesday 24 October, 2.30pm. Brixton Library

Join Nzinga Dance ensemble who will take you through the techniques of the contemporary dance known as Kuduro, a youth music and dance style of Angola. Kuduro dance fuses Angolan street & traditional dance movements and is a lively and up tempo social dance form.

Ages 5 and above. Limited spaces

Hands on Our Instruments
Wednesday 25 October, 2.30pm to 3.30pm. West Norwood Library

A workshop by Nzinga Dance at which children will learn all about African drums and accompanying instruments and where they are from. They’ll learn what they are made of, why we drum, and which drums are used in which celebrations and dances. A lively and interactive workshop where participants will be able to play the drums and instruments available.

Ages 5 years and above. Booking essential

Freshwater Theatre
Black History: a celebration
Wednesday 25 October, 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Streatham Library

Celebrate Black History Month with this specially created large group session. Children will discover facts and stories about the abolition of slavery and the Windrush. They will also encounter some unsung heroes from Black History.

Ages 6 years and above

Ahoy Pirate Creative Writing Workshop
Thursday 26 October, 2pm. Clapham Library

Put yourself in the shoes of Jack Sparrow and experience life as a pirate! Concentrating on diaries and creative writing, be inspired by the nautical world but be careful not to walk the plank!

Ages 8 to 11 years
Women of Black History
Creative Writing with Explore Learning
Thursday 26 October 10am to 11am. Tate South Lambeth Library
Thursday 26 October, 12 Noon to 1pm. Brixton Library
You are a journalist and have been assigned to write an article on women who have made a positive contribution either historically or present day. Learn the tricks of the trade to writing a piece for a newspaper or magazine.
Ages 8 to 11 years

A Carnival of Stories
Friday 27 October, 10.30am to 11.30am. Upper Norwood Library
Friday 27 October, 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Durning Library
A treasure hunt of stories celebrating Black History Month; a sensory journey beginning in England in Amazing Grace, then onto Kenya in Handa’s Surprise and finally to the Caribbean in Island Counting, with interactive activities based around the three stories.
Ages 3 to 6 years

Hands on Our Costumes
Friday 27 October, 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Tate South Lambeth Library
Participants will learn about traditional African cloth, costumes and accessories and what is worn for special dances and celebrations. You will also learn about the meaning of dances followed by a short dance workshop.
Ages 5 to 11 years - Booking essential

Celebrating Diversity
Friday 27 October, Afternoon events 2pm to 5.30pm, Panel discussion 6pm to 7.30pm. Clapham Library
Afternoon of storytelling and interactive workshops celebrating the world of children’s books.

Highlights:
Author Talk and workshop with a special guest: Sonya J. Bowser
American author Sonya J. Bowser visits Lambeth Libraries during Black History Month introducing her books The Adventures of Zolie Zi. Zolie Zi is the main character and narrator in this realistic and comical series of children’s books.

Book stall with author signing: An opportunity to purchase books by many authors and get them signed on the day.

Panel Discussion:
Are you a children’s author or wanting to write diverse literature for children? Why not join in our panel discussion.

The Adventures of Zolie Zi with author Sonya J Bowser
Saturday 28 October, 2.30pm. West Norwood Library
Other Events

National Libraries Week
Welcome to Libraries Week: the annual showcase of all the creative, innovative and diverse activities that UK libraries have to offer. Libraries Week is a chance to discover the range of things you can do at your library in addition to reading, from play and learning for children, to managing your health, to accessing wifi and games, to finding a job, a hobby or starting a business.

David Mamet's Reunion & Dark Pony
Monday 9 October, 6pm. Durning Library
Sunday 15 October, 6pm. Clapham Library
Baseless Fabric presents David Mamet’s rarely performed short plays Reunion and Dark Pony in libraries across South London as part of National Libraries Week 2017.

These short plays of David Mamet’s early work are about father and daughter relationships. Reunion realistically observes a meeting between an estranged father and daughter who have not seen each other in years, while Dark Pony playfully explores a father telling his child a magical story. Come join us to explore these unusual plays by one of America’s leading contemporary playwrights and be immersed in the worlds of these plays in the unique and atmospheric library environments during Libraries Week 2017. Performing these plays rarely seen in the UK, amongst books, the holders of worlds of stories and adventures, is special.

Overall running time: approx. 1hr
Tickets £7-£10
Reunion & Dark Pony by David Mamet

International Games Week
Saturday 4 November
Libraries are known as the place to go to share culture in the form of books, music, movies and even technology. But, more and more they are a place to gather as a community. During International Games Week, more than two thousand libraries across the planet will be celebrating the mutually-reinforcing power of play and learning.

We invite everyone to visit Lambeth Libraries during International Games Week. Bring the family and the kids and take a new look at what your library has to offer – it just might surprise you.

Contact your local library for further information.

Alice in the Cuckoo’s Nest
Sunday 12 November, 6.30pm. Brixton Library
Friday 17 November, 7.30pm. Clapham Library
Librarian Theatre’s new play, inspired by Lewis Carroll’s classic novel Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, will be touring libraries across the UK from November 2017, exploring the theme of psychosis in the world of Alice’s library. A highly physical production with a dynamic cast of four portraying all of the characters.

Shows are family friendly, and children aged 8+ (accompanied by an adult) are very welcome. Please note however that this is not specifically a children’s show, and the production explores adult themes of mental health. Overall running time: approx. 1hr
Tickets: £10 and £5 concessions.
Booking www.librariantheatre.com
Lambeth libraries

Libraries contact details:

- **Brixton Library**
  Brixton Oval, SW2 1JQ.
  Tel: 020 7926 1056

- **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

- **Lambeth Archives**
  52 Knatchbull Road SE5 9QY.
  Tel: 020 7926 6076

- **Streatham Library**
  63 Streatham High Road SW16 1PL.
  Tel: 020 7926 6768

- **Tate South Lambeth Library**
  180 South Lambeth Road, SW8 1QP.
  Tel: 020 7926 0705

- **Upper Norwood Library**
  41 Westow Hill, SE19 1TJ.
  Tel: 020 7926 1063

- **Waterloo Library**
  The Oasis Centre,
  1 Kennington Road, SE1 7QP.
  Tel: 020 7926 8750

- **West Norwood Library**
  The Old Library Centre,
  14-16 Knights Hill, SE27 0HY.
  Tel: 020 7926 8092

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

For more events and information visit [www.lambeth.gov.uk/events](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/events)

**Booking**

All events are free unless otherwise stated, to avoid disappointment please book for all events.

Many workshops have limited places so booking for these is essential – Please book by emailing/phoning the local library.
For all service and general enquiries please contact the Lambeth service centre.

Email infoservice@lambeth.gov.uk
Tel 020 7926 1000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)
Website www.lambeth.gov.uk

If you would like this information in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or in another language, please phone 020 7926 0750

Spanish
Si desea esta información en otro idioma, rogamos nos llame al 020 7926 0750

Portuguese
Se desejarem esta informação noutro idioma é favor telefonar para 020 7926 0750

French
Si vous souhaitez ces informations dans une autre langue veuillez nous contacter au 020 7926 0750

Bengali
এই তথ্য অন্য কোনো ভাষায় আপনার প্রয়োজন হলে অনুমোদন করে ফোন করুন 020 7926 0750

Twi
Se wope saa nkaeboy yi wo kasa fofo mu a fre 020 7926 0750

Yoruba
Tí ẹ ba ẹ ṣe ọmọràn yìí, ní èdè Ọmírán, eji, ẹ kàn wà l’ágogo 020 7926 0750