



**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

A **celebration**  
of history, arts,  
literature and film

A guide to Lambeth  
Libraries' events  
**Autumn 2023**

[www.lambeth.gov.uk/black-history-month](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/black-history-month)

#BHM23

  
**Lambeth**

# Lambeth Libraries Black History Month 2023

## Introduction

I hope you will join us as we celebrate African and Caribbean history and heritage. It is 75 years since the arrival of the Empire Windrush brought more Caribbean creativity to enrich the diversity and vibrancy of London culture and Lambeth is committed to supporting the Windrush descendants who have made such a huge contribution to the borough.

We are lucky to have so many people from around the world who for centuries have made Lambeth their home. Black History Month is a time when we can come together to share and enjoy the culture of our African and Caribbean communities that have enriched our lives in Lambeth. Lambeth Libraries has partnered with many local organisations, along with a selection of brilliant writers and artists, to deliver this fantastic programme of events.



### Cllr Donatus Anyanwu

Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Leisure and Sport

 @BHMLambeth  Facebook/BHMLambeth

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



Front cover image: P P Arnold courtesy of Bonnier Books

## Programme events

### Celebrate National Poetry Day – Poetry and Spoken Word Night

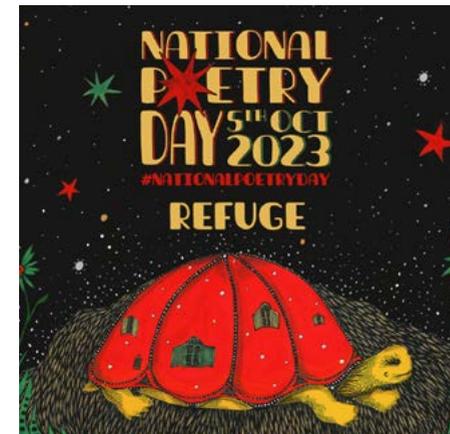
Thursday 5 October, 7pm to 9pm  
Minet Library, SE5 9QY

#### Bookings

Calling all Black poets and spoken words artists, come and share your words with us on National Poetry Day. This year's theme is Refuge, and we want to hear what you have to say because voices, words and stories help to bridge understanding in our community.

Sign up to perform on the night, so get there early!

#### #NationalPoetryDay



### Lena Horne: The M-G-M Years

Thursday 5 October, 7pm  
The Cinema Museum,  
2 Dugard Way, SE11 4TH

#### Tickets £8.

To coincide with the publication of his latest book, *Lena Horne: The M-G-M Years*, film historian Stephen Bourne will present an engaging and informative talk about Lena Horne's association with MGM in the 1940s, and her breakthrough as Hollywood's first Black movie star. Stephen will include rare photos of the glamorous Lena in MGM productions including *Cabin in the Sky* (1943), *Broadway Rhythm* (1944), *Till the Clouds Roll By* (1946) and *Words and Music* (1948). Stephen will then answer questions on his book, and the evening ends with a screening of *Cabin in the Sky*.

Doors open at 6pm, talk by Stephen Bourne from 7pm, film from 8.30pm.

Refreshments will be available in the licensed cafe/bar.

For more information email:  
[info@cinemamuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@cinemamuseum.org.uk)





## Ten Amazing Black History Icons Who Achieved Greatness Despite The Slavery Era, with Robin Walker

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

### Bookings

Robin Walker 'The Black History Man' will address the brilliant careers of high achieving Black people during the least favourable era for them to have flourished: The Slave Trade. This inspirational multi-media presentation covers Black influencers who excelled as mathematicians, engineers, soldiers, writers, intellectuals, artists and composers. They left behind tangible legacies that we still admire today. The content begins with Juan Latino (sixteenth century) and ends with Mary Lewis (nineteenth century).



Robin Walker is one of the UK's most pre-eminent African scholars. He has been teaching and lecturing in African World Studies, Egyptology and Black History for nearly three decades. He is also a best-selling author with over sixteen books to his name, including the critically acclaimed work *When We Ruled*. He is a founder and keynote lecturer of 'The Black Secret Education Project', an online platform aimed at bringing a comprehensive knowledge of Black History and African Heritage to a global audience.

[www.theblacksecret.co.uk](http://www.theblacksecret.co.uk)

## Kennington walk: 'The Black Man and His Party': William Cuffay, Kennington and the Chartists

Saturday 7 October, 11am

Kennington Park (meeting point outside Prince Consort Lodge Kennington Road/Kennington Park Road) SE11 4AS

William Cuffay was born in 1788, a man of African heritage. His father had previously been enslaved and was originally from St. Kitts. Cuffay, a tailor and political activist, was one of the main organisers of the large Chartist rally on Kennington Common on 10 April 1848. The Chartists were a mass movement petitioning the government for democratic reform. Months later Cuffay was arrested and convicted of treason, sentenced to 21 years penal transportation to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) where he spent the rest of his life.

William Cuffay – wasn't the only important Black activist in the story of Kennington Common. Abolitionist, Robert Wedderburn, preached here on the site of what is now St Mark's Church.

Join the Friends of Kennington Park to walk in the footsteps of Black British radical leaders like Cuffay and Wedderburn.



## Sufferah, with award winning writer Alex Wheatle

Saturday 7 October, 2pm  
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

### Bookings

In this breathtaking memoir, acclaimed writer Alex Wheatle shows how music became his salvation through a childhood marred by abuse.

Abandoned as a baby to the British care system, Alex grows up with no knowledge of his Jamaican parentage or family history. Later, he is inexorably drawn to reggae, which becomes his lifeline through disrupted teenage years, the challenges of living as a young Black man in 1980s Britain and his imprisonment for protesting against systemic racism and police brutality.



Alex's youth was portrayed in Oscar Award winning director Steve McQueen's *Small Axe* series.

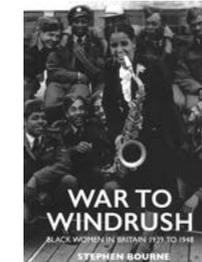
In *Sufferah*, he tells his own story, urgently, vividly and unsentimentally. His award-winning fiction - and this memoir - are a call to never give up hope. They remind us that words can be our sustenance, and music our heartbeat.

## War to Windrush - Black Women in Britain 1939 to 1948, an illustrated talk by Stephen Bourne

Tuesday 10 October, 7pm  
Carnegie Library, SE24 0DG

### Bookings

Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush, Stephen Bourne's *War to Windrush* explores the lives of Britain's immigrant community through the experiences of Black British women during the period spanning from the beginning of World War II to the arrival of the Empire Windrush in 1948.



In those short years, Black British women performed an integral role in keeping the country functioning and set the stage for the arrival of other Black Britons on the

Empire Windrush. The book shows first-hand what life was like in Britain for Black women through photography and evocative prose.

*War to Windrush* is a celebration of multiculturalism and immigration, much needed in today's political climate. For more information about Stephen's Black British history books go to [www.stephenbourne.co.uk](http://www.stephenbourne.co.uk)

Event organised by the Friends of Carnegie Library





## Black Genealogy: Tracing Black Ancestry Back to the Early 1800s with Paul Crooks

Wednesday 11 October, 6pm  
Streatham Library, SW16 1PN

### Bookings

Join Paul as he provides expert guidance on tracing Black ancestry further back to the early 1800s, to enslaved ancestors. With his pioneering research and invaluable insights, attendees can gain a deeper understanding of their cultural heritage and family history.

Paul will share his personal journey of overcoming major barriers to tracing his ancestors (who lived prior to the abolition of the British system of slavery), along with records specific to Black ancestry and other materials of general interest to those embarking on their own journeys to find their roots.

This talk is suitable for those new to exploring family history, those with some experience but seeking other sources of information, or those looking to deepen their knowledge of Black History.



## Rumble in the Jungle Rematch: Join Muhammad Ali in Virtual Reality

Friday 13 October, 2pm  
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

### Bookings



Come along to try out Virtual Reality with an extraordinary reimagining of the Muhammad Ali v George Foreman fight - the legendary Rumble In The Jungle. Through the LockerRoom VR experience, you will be transported back to Ali's dressing room in Kinshasa 1974, during the last minutes before his historic fight with George Foreman. VR users will become Ali, the greatest of all time, and understand – through his memories – why his legacy goes way beyond boxing.



## Black Girl from Pyongyang with Brixton Radical Readers

Friday 13 October, 7pm  
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

### Bookings

Join Brixton Library's Radical Readers to discuss the extraordinary true story of a West African girl's upbringing in North Korea under the protection of President Kim Il Sung.

In 1979, Monica Macias, aged only seven, was transplanted from West Africa to the unfamiliar surroundings of North Korea. She was sent by her father Francisco, the first president of post-Independence Equatorial Guinea, to be educated under the guardianship of his ally, Kim Il Sung. Within months, her father was executed in a military coup; her mother became unreachable. Effectively orphaned, she and two siblings had to make their life in Pyongyang. At military boarding school, Monica learned to mix with older children, speak fluent Korean and handle weapons on training exercises.



After university, she went in search of her roots, passing through Beijing, Seoul, Madrid, Guinea, New York and finally London – forced at every step to reckon with damning perceptions of her adoptive homeland. Optimistic yet unflinching, Monica's astonishing and unique story challenges us to see the world through different eyes.

## The Great White Bard: Shakespeare, Race and the Future with Farah Karim-Cooper

Monday 16 October, 7pm  
Durning Library, SE11 4HF

### Bookings

Farah Karim-Cooper is Professor of Shakespeare Studies, King's College London and Director of Education at Shakespeare's Globe, where she has worked for 19 years. She served as President of the Shakespeare Association of America 2021-2022 and was the 2022 Fellow of the Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities. Farah has published multiple academic studies of Shakespeare and is a General Editor for Arden's *Shakespeare in the Theatre* series.



Combining piercing analysis of race, gender and otherness in plays from *Othello* to *The Tempest*, with a radical reappraisal of Elizabethan London, *The Great White Bard* entreats us neither to idealise nor to fossilise Shakespeare but instead to look him in the eye and reckon with the discomforts of his plays, playhouses and society, and in doing so maybe even fall in love with him all over again.

Event organised by the Friends of Durning Library.



## Rose and the Burma Sky, with Rosanna Amaka in conversation with author Louise Hare

Tuesday 17 October, 6.30pm  
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

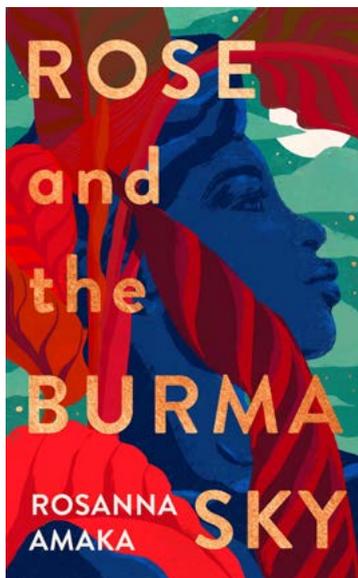
### Bookings

1939: In a village in south-east Nigeria on the brink of the Second World War, young Obi watches from a mango tree as a colonial army jeep speeds by, filled with soldiers laughing and shouting, their buttons shining in the sun. To Obi, their promise of a smart uniform and regular wages is hard to resist, especially as he has his sweetheart Rose to impress and a family to support.

Years later, when Rose falls pregnant to another man, his heart is shattered. As the Burma Campaign mounts, and Obi is shipped out to fight, he is haunted by the mystery of Rose's lover. When his identity comes to light, Obi's devastation leads to a tragic chain of unexpected events.

Rosanna Amaka is the author of *The Book of Echoes* and *Rose and the Burma Sky*. Louise Hare's latest book is the fantastic *Harlem After Midnight*.

Join Rosanna and Louise in conversation.



©Mark Grey



Charlotte Knee Photography

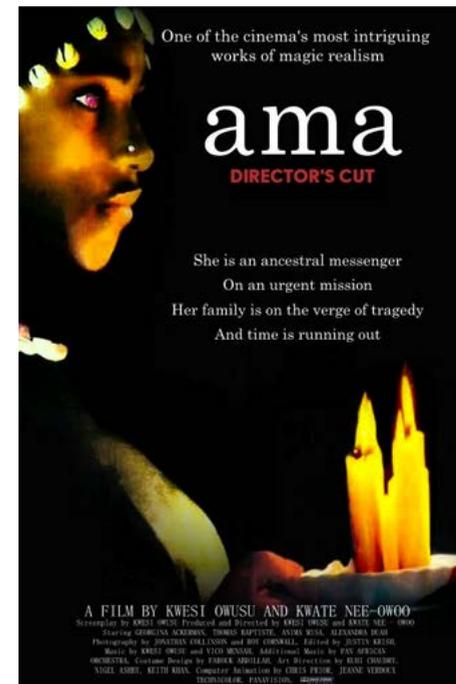
## Ama: An African Journey of Discovery, Film Screening

Thursday 19 October, 6.30pm  
West Norwood Picturehouse,  
SE27 9JU

### Bookings

Screened for the first time in 1991, *Ama: A Journey of African Discovery* was hailed by critics as a stunning and politically significant film on its initial release. Following the story of a young Ghanaian girl living in London who finds a computer disk containing a message from her ancestors, the plot takes audiences on a gripping journey exploring family ties across generations and geographies - following Ama's mission to save her family and rediscover her African identity in the process.

*Ama* received international acclaim on its initial release and its re-release is shaping up to be no different. The premier of the new, updated Director's cut of the film will be at 2023 New York's BAM Arts Centre and we are proud to be bringing it to Lambeth this year.



Picturehouse



## Soul Survivor: Soul Legend P.P. Arnold in conversation with music journalist Lloyd Bradley

Friday 20 October, 7pm  
Clapham Library, SW4 7DB

### Bookings

Join soul legend P.P. Arnold, in conversation with journalist and writer Lloyd Bradley, to discuss her extraordinary memoir – *Soul Survivor*.

From her origins in powerhouse church gospel, Arnold's performing career began at the age of just seventeen when she joined the Ike & Tina Turner Revue. But little did the young Ikette know that her world was about to be turned upside-down...

Upon arriving in London in 1966 to support the Rolling Stones, the shy but vivacious teenager caught the eye of frontman Mick Jagger. He would persuade her to stay in the city and record as a solo artist, ultimately leading to a five-decade career working with everyone from Rod Stewart, Eric Clapton, the Small Faces, Nick Drake and Barry Gibb to Peter Gabriel, Roger Waters, the KLF, Paul Weller and Primal Scream.

Although it has been far from a gilded life for the soul superstar, she survived it all. Now P.P. Arnold shares her remarkable adventures in her long-awaited memoir.

Lloyd Bradley is one of the UK's foremost Black music experts and a seasoned cultural commentator both in print and in person. He is the author of many books and was Associate Producer of BBC2's award winning series *Reggae: The Story of Jamaican Music* and among the UK's first Black pirate radio crew on the iconic Dread Broadcast Corporation. With a background of over 30 years as a music journalist he has written for *Mojo*, *Blues & Soul*, *the Independent*, *the Observer*, *Q Magazine*, *Esquire*, *Smash Hits*, *Music Week* and *the NME*.

Book early for this undoubted highlight of Black History Month 2023.



## The Black Men's Consortium, Performance Event

Saturday 21 October, 12pm to 3pm  
Streatham Library, SW16 1PN

### Bookings

#### The Black Men's Consortium

This community engagement event immerses you in film, interactivity, debate and includes improvisation. With a fantastic cast of performers, this interactive performance forces you to consider the sometimes-uneasy question of 'what is needed to improve the lives of Black men in the UK?'

The Black Men's Consortium is a community-led exploration arts and health project in which Black men of African Descent meet to experience positive and meaningful interactions and discuss issues that matter to them.



## The Culture Trap: Ethnic Expectations and Unequal Schooling for Black Youth, with Derron Wallace

Saturday 21 October, 2pm  
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

### Bookings

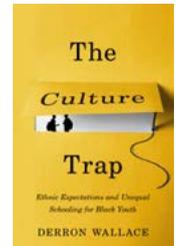
#### Black Cultural Archive

Join us for an engaging and thought-provoking author talk with Derron Wallace as he presents his groundbreaking book, *The Culture Trap: Ethnic Expectations and Unequal Schooling for Black Youth*.

Derron challenges the notion that culture alone can explain the academic performance and behaviour of Black students in schools, emphasising the complex factors at play. He focuses on the experiences of Black Caribbeans in London and New York, revealing how culture is often used as an excuse for racism in educational settings and offering strategies for dismantling these discriminatory practices.

Dr Derron Wallace was the Jacob S. Potofsky Chair in Sociology and is Associate Professor of Sociology and Education at Brandeis University, USA. He is also a research fellow at the University of Manchester.

Whether you are an educator, a student, a parent, or a community member concerned about the educational experiences of Black youth, this author talk is not to be missed.





## Black History Month Community Day

**Saturday 21 October, 10am to 5pm**  
**South Lambeth Library, SW8 1QP**

Join us for a day full of fun for all the family. From 10am to 5pm there will be loads to do in the library with market stalls and activities. For the children there will be a story-time, badge making and more.



## Live at the Library

**Saturday 21 October, 6pm to 9pm**  
**South Lambeth Library, SW8 1QP**

### Booking

The evening at the library is for adults with great live entertainment.

Starting at 6pm with **DJ Fitzroy Facey**, who is also the editor of [www.thesoulsurvivormagazine.co.uk](http://www.thesoulsurvivormagazine.co.uk)

then from 7pm the amazing soul singer, **Linda Muriel Afrosymphony** (formerly: Incognito/Brand New Heavies) feat. Maurice Brown, and at 8pm to 9pm to round off the night **DJ Dubplate Pearl**.

## Dubplate Pearl performs Revival is Survival:

What are you going to do with all those records?" my sister asked me in 2009. I replied, "they will come in handy one day"! Little did I know a few months later I would be asked to do the warm-up for friends at an event in Hammersmith and that my musical journey would begin. From buying 60s and 70s revival reggae to performing across the UK and in Europe, "Revival is Survival" charts the journey of 3 mature women becoming successful DJs in their own right in a male dominated industry.

[dubplatepearl.co.uk](http://dubplatepearl.co.uk)



## #BlackHistoryMonth with Dr Velma McClymont

**Tuesday 24 October, 6.30pm**  
**West Norwood Library, SE27 9JX**

### Bookings

#### West Norwood Cemetery

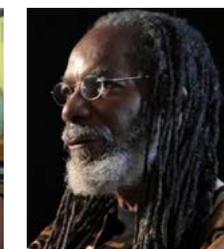
Join author Dr Velma McClymont and Caribbean historian Cecil Gutzmore, as they discuss the importance of Black History Month; the Black presence in London pre-20th century; Windrush children (who joined their parents in the 1960s); and Dr McClymont's latest novel *Little River*.

Dr Velma McClymont is a writer, poet, scholar-activist and the director/publisher of WomanzVue Books. She is a former lecturer in Caribbean Studies. Her novel, *Little River*, is a sweeping historical novel of a Scottish sugar baron and the Jamaica his life becomes enmeshed with.

Cecil Gutzmore is a member of the Windrush generation, Pan-Africanist, community activist, Marxist historian and former lecturer at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica. He is also Resident Historian on WomanzVue where his focus is British colonialism, transatlantic slavery, and also the Black experience in Britain.

This event is brought to the community as part of the ongoing National Heritage Lottery funded project in West Norwood Cemetery.

You can find out more on the project website: [www.westnorwoodcemetery.org](http://www.westnorwoodcemetery.org)





## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner: Black Cinema Film Club Special

Tuesday 24 October, 6.30pm  
South Lambeth Library, SW8 1QP

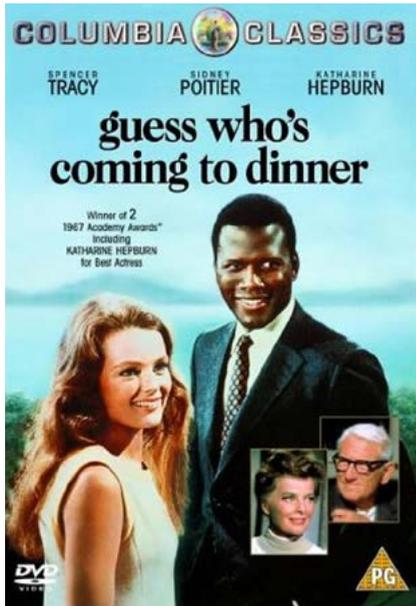
### Bookings

Join the South Lambeth Library Classic film club for a Black History Month special showing of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (1967: 104 mins) a film produced at a time when a third of American states barred marriage between Black and white people, making this formally conservative film extremely culturally radical.

Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn play the perplexed parents, Matthew and Christina, who are set to meet their daughter's new fiancé, John Prentice (Sidney Poitier), a distinguished Black

doctor. Christina accepts her daughter's decision to marry John, but Matthew is shocked by this interracial union; the doctor's parents are equally dismayed. Both families must sit down face to face and examine each other's level of intolerance. Director Stanley Kramer creates a masterful study of society's prejudices.

The film will be introduced by the Black Cinema Club with Q&A and kindly sponsored by the Vauxhall Nighttime Enterprise Zone and Mayor of London.



## Speak Out! Book Launch with the Brixton Black Women's Group

Wednesday 25 October, 7pm  
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

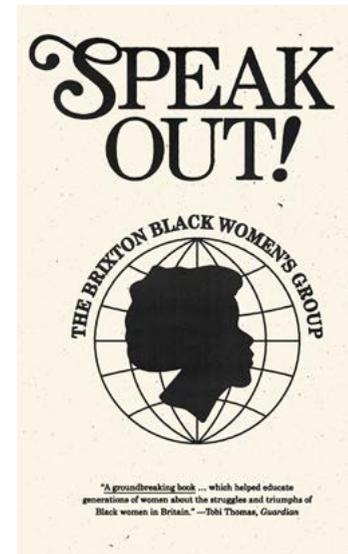
### Bookings

*Speak Out!* brings together the writings of the Brixton Black Women's Group (BWG) for the first time in a landmark collection.

Established in 1973, in response to the lack of interest in women's issues experienced in male-dominated Black organisations, the Brixton Black Women's Group's aim was to create a distinct space where women of African and Asian descent could meet to focus on political, social and cultural issues as they affected Black women. BWG published its own newsletter, *Speak Out*, which kept alive the debate about the relevance of feminism to Black

politics and provided a Black women's perspective on immigration, housing, health and culture.

The Brixton Black Women's Group was one of the first Black women's groups to be established in Britain. Many Black women came to Britain in the '50s and '60s, either by invitation from the British government to help staff the National Health Service and London Transport, or forced by the ravages of colonialism. It is against this background that the Brixton Black Women's Group was born and fought for the liberation of women and Black people world-wide.



The Brixton Black Women's Group

"A groundbreaking book ... which helped educate generations of women about the struggles and triumphs of Black women in Britain." —Tobi Thomas, Guardian



## Directors in Conversation: Imruh Bakari talks to Kwesi Owusu director of Ama

Thursday 26 October, 6.30pm  
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

### Bookings

Following the film showing of *Ama* at West Norwood Picturehouse earlier in the festival, Director Kwesi Owusu will discuss the film and his work with fellow Director Imruh Bakari.

**Kwesi Owusu** is one of Ghana's leading filmmakers and writer. He is also the author of five books. In the 1980s, he was a founding member of the influential pan-African performance group African Dawn. Since 2022 he has hosted the African Dawn podcast, covering "untold stories" from Africa's cultural history, as well as current trends in the arts world.

**Imruh Bakari** was the Festival Director of the Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF) for 5 years and is a founder/director of Tanzania Screenwriters Forum. He is a former member of the Advisory Council of the Pan-African



Federation of Filmmakers and currently a member of Tanzania Independent Producers Association, and the Editorial Board of the Journal of African Cinemas. He has a number of film and television credits, including *Riots and Rumours of Riots*, *Street Warriors* and *The Mark of the Hand*. In 2013 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in African Cinema.

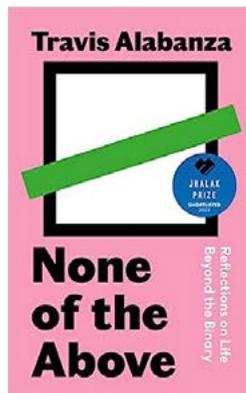
## None of the Above – Lambeth LGBTQ+ book group special

Friday 27 October, 7pm  
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

### Bookings

Join the Lambeth LGBTQ+ book group to discuss *None of the Above: Reflections on Life Beyond the Binary* by Travis Alabanza.

Winner of the Jhalak prize 2023, Travis Alabanza examines seven phrases people have directed at them about their gender identity. These phrases have stayed with them over the years. Some are deceptively innocuous, some deliberately loaded or offensive, some celebratory; sentences that have impacted them for better and for worse; sentences that speak to the broader issues



raised by a world that insists that gender must be a binary.

Through these seven phrases, which include some of their most transformative experiences as a Black, mixed race, non-binary person, Travis Alabanza turns a mirror back on society, giving us reason to question the very framework in which we live and the ways we treat each other.

To borrow a copy of the book please contact the library.

## The Brixton Immortals Domino Club Celebration

Saturday 28 October, 2pm to late  
Clapham Library, SW4 7DB

### Bookings

Join the Brixton Immortals Domino Club (BIDC) as they proudly present the annual Black History Month Celebration at Clapham Library. The event kicks off at 2pm with our engaging intergenerational Domino Workshops. At 5.30pm, the workshops conclude and make way for an unforgettable evening.

From 6pm to 10pm, immerse yourself in The Black History Month Show, featuring a diverse lineup of intergenerational performers showcasing various arts such as singing, dancing, music, comedy, and more. Prepare to be captivated by the talent within our community as local individuals of all ages and backgrounds, ordinary people like you and me,

generously volunteer their time to entertain and inspire during this special Black History Month Celebration.

From 10pm to 1am, a selection of talented DJs will keep the party going with great music and a lively atmosphere until closing time. It's an opportunity to let loose and enjoy the festivities with your community.

This event aims to deliver a day and night of captivating entertainment for everyone in our community, by our community. We want to showcase the immense talent and spirit of our local individuals who have come together to celebrate Black History Month. The event is free for all to attend, and we're thrilled to have the presence of special guests and sponsors joining us.

Come and celebrate with us as we honour and rejoice in the rich heritage and accomplishments of the Black community. It promises to be an extraordinary occasion filled with joy, unity, and cultural appreciation.





## Book launch by Prof. Gus John in conversation with Prof. Lez Henry

Monday 30 October, 6.30pm  
Streatham Library, SW16 1PN

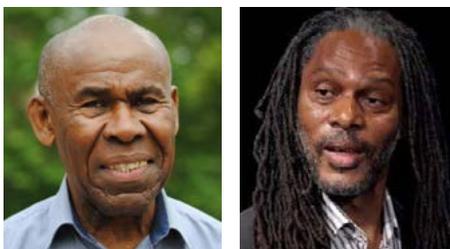
### Bookings

Join Prof. Gus John in launching his two new books *Blazing Trails - stories of a Heroic Generation* and *Don't Salvage the Empire Windrush*. Gus will be in conversation with Prof. Lez Henry.

In *Blazing Trails*, Professor Gus John pays tribute to a truly heroic generation: twenty-two individuals whose lives were dedicated to the struggle for racial equality and social justice in post-war Britain. Like the Sankofa bird, their stories enable this generation to learn from our past as they seek to make sense of the present and build a more equitable future.

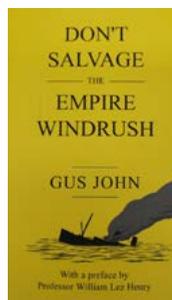
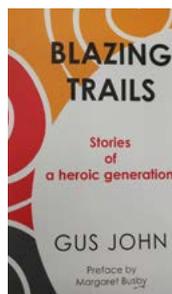
In *Don't Salvage the Empire Windrush*, he seeks to challenge the ever-encroaching Windrush narrative, which the state has adopted and is zealously promoting. He debunks the notion that the arrival of the Empire Windrush in 1948 marked the beginning of the evolution and growth of multiracial Britain. It is a narrative that displaces the history of those settled Black communities who had struggled against racism and marginalisation in Britain prior to its arrival, and those who fought for national independence of the Black Commonwealth while building a global Pan-Africanist movement right here in Britain.

photo Andy Mabbett



**Professor Gus John** is an academic and an equality and human rights campaigner. He is an education campaigner, author and was the first Black Director of Education in Britain in 1989. Since the 1960s, he has spent his entire career campaigning against racial discrimination and issues within the education sector in Britain's inner cities. 2020 saw Gus voted as one of the '100 Great Black Britons'.

**Prof William 'Lez' Henry** is an academic, a writer, poet and community activist who has lectured nationally and internationally, featuring in numerous documentaries, current affairs television and radio programmes. He is also the British Reggae dancehall deejay Lezlee Lyrix. He lectures in the areas of criminology, sociology, anthropology, Black history, race, education, ethnicity, youth crime and cultural studies.



## Fire Rush, with Jacqueline Crooks

Thursday 2 November, 6.30pm  
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

### Bookings

Yamaye lives for the weekend, when she can go raving with her friends at The Crypt, an underground club in the industrial town on the outskirts of London. A young woman unsure of her future, the sound is her guide - a chance to discover who she really is in the rhythms of those smoke-filled nights. In the dance-hall darkness, dub is the music of her soul, her friendships, her ancestry. When her relationship with Moose is brutally cut short, Yamaye goes on a dramatic journey of transformation where past and present collide with explosive consequences.

Jacqueline Crooks was born in the village of Llundas Vale, Jamaica. She has been shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize, and BBC National Short Story Prize.

Join Jacqueline to discuss her writing and *Fire Rush*.



## Pegasus Opera Company presents Legacy and Hope Concert 2023

Friday 3 November, 7pm  
Clapham Library, SW4 7DB

### Bookings

Let us take you on a joyful musical journey as Pegasus Opera Company celebrates Black History Month 2023.



photo RUBYLDN

For more than 30 years, Pegasus Opera Company has fearlessly paved the way for diverse talent in Opera. Pegasus Opera Company supports artists from African, Caribbean and Asian heritage based in the UK to hone their skills and create sustainable careers in opera.

Come and join Pegasus Opera Company for their Legacy and Hope concert featuring top classical singers and their community choir performing songs from composers of African, Caribbean and Asian heritage, gospel, spirituals, opera, musical theatre and songs inspired by the Black diaspora.



## Spoken Word Poetry Open Mic

Saturday 4 November, 2pm to 4pm  
Streatham Library, SW16 1PN

### Bookings

The mic will be open to all ages.  
Register by email:

[tonyhappydrums@gmail.com](mailto:tonyhappydrums@gmail.com)

First 19 booked will perform 1-3 poems each. As children will be present, please keep the language PG.

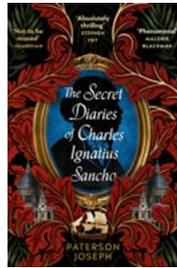


## The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho with Paterson Joseph

Wednesday 8 November, 7pm  
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

### Bookings

'I had little right to live, born on a slave ship where my parents both died. But I survived, and indeed, you might say I did more...'



It's 1746 and Georgian London is not a safe place for a young Black man, especially one who has escaped slavery. Sancho is utterly alone. The man he hoped would help is dying. Sancho is desperate. And yet this same Sancho will go on to tread the boards of London's theatres, become a highly acclaimed musician and composer, lead the fight to end slavery, meet the King and become the very first Black person to vote in Britain ...It's time for him to tell his story...



Faye Thomas Photography

From one of Britain's best-loved actors, Paterson Joseph, comes an utterly captivating historical novel, telling the true story of a Great Black Briton.

## Exhibitions



## Emerge & Establish: A Black History Month Group Show

Thursday 5 October to  
Wednesday 1 November  
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

Exhibition available during Library opening hours

### Lambeth Libraries is proud to introduce:

Emerge & Establish a small group show of emerging and established London-based painters, exhibiting their creative journeys as black British artists. The show includes multimedia artist Jez Jacobs, abstract painter Courtenay Kusitor and other talents.

Jez Jacobs lives and works in Lambeth and is based at Warrior Studios in Brixton. He studied fine art sculpture at Central Saint Martins and has a background in graphic and multi-media design and working with young people.

[@surfacenoise\\_london](https://www.instagram.com/surfacenoise_london)

Courtenay Kusitor is a British Ghanaian artist who draws upon her interest in consciousness to inform her art practice. Courtenay studied Visual Communication at The Surrey Institute of Art & Design.



Her intention is to ignite a sense of inward and outward awareness, one that the viewer can bring into their own life beyond the initial engagement of her work.

[@courtenay\\_kusitor\\_artist](https://www.instagram.com/courtenay_kusitor_artist)

## Sisters of the Coast

Monday 2 to Sunday 22 October  
West Norwood Library, SE27 9JX

Exhibition available during Library opening hours



Sister of the Coast showcases the transformative voyage of the Ashdon Jazz Academy and their impactful trip to The Gambia. In this extraordinary endeavour, the charity embarked on a mission to empower and uplift 16 young women by immersing them in the vibrant tapestry of Gambian culture and foster a deep connection with their own identity.

Step into this captivating display and experience the vibrancy, resilience, and undeniable beauty of The Gambia's culture. Celebrate the power of self-discovery, identity, and the unbreakable bonds that connect us all. Sisters of the Coast is a testament to the extraordinary capacity of travel, culture, and compassion to uplift and transform lives.



## Mary Seacole Family Day

**Sunday 1 October,  
10am to 4.30pm  
Florence Nightingale Museum,  
St Thomas' Hospital, SE1 7EW**

Come along and discover the story of Mary Seacole, hear her adventures first hand, have a go at diagnosing an injured soldier and make a 'sniff bag' to take home.



Performances will take place at 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Sniff bag activity is available throughout the day. Suitable for ages 5+.

Free entry for Lambeth residents. To receive free entry please show proof of postcode (e.g. council bill or letter, driving licence, bill, etc.), proof of postcode required per family group.

For more information  
[www.florence-nightingale.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk/whats-on)



## Black Books for Kids Book Chat

Librarians Zoey and Liz chat about some of the amazing new children's books by Black writers and illustrators that have been published this year. Why not join them live on Zoom or on Facebook and let them know what books you've been reading this year. Ages 7 plus.

**Wednesday 11 October, 6.30pm**

### Bookings



## Once Upon a Story

Nothing beats a good story. Join LEAP this autumn for free family-friendly storytelling sessions near you. Together you and your little ones will discover, celebrate and share stories in different ways such as using music and movement. You'll hear stories from different cultures, and there will be story-based craft sessions. You'll be introduced to some fantastic new books read to you by some special guests.



Sessions will take place across Lambeth so there is plenty of opportunity for you to get involved.

### Sessions include:

**Saturday 14 October,  
1 to 4pm - Brixton Library**

**Saturday 11 November,  
1 to 4pm - West Norwood Library**

**Friday 24 November, 10.30am to  
1pm - Myatt's Field North Centre**

Go to [leaplambeth.org.uk/events](http://leaplambeth.org.uk/events) to book your FREE place.



## Anansi Storytime and Crafts

Join us for trickster tales featuring the greatest of all, 'Anansi the Spiderman', then have fun making Spiders using paper plates and cards. Under 8s.

**Monday 23 October, 2pm to 3.30pm.  
Streatham Library**



## Half Term Carnival Headdress Craft Activities

Feel the spirit of Carnivale this October half-term and make your own headdress to take home.

**Monday 23 October,  
2.30 to 4pm. Minet Library**

**Tuesday 24 October,  
2.30 to 4pm. Upper Norwood Library**

**Wednesday 25 October,  
2.30 to 4pm. Waterloo Library**

**Thursday 26 October,  
2.30 to 4pm. Carnegie Library**





## Drum and Craft Workshop

Join us at Clapham Library to celebrate African heritage. Try your hand at drumming and bead making and find out about the different cloth and flags that represent the diaspora.



**Tuesday 24 October, 2.30 to 4pm. Clapham Library**

## Creative Writing Celebrating Black History Month

In this workshop, we'll find out more about famous people from the local community, the UK and worldwide. We'll also work on our speaking and presentation skills; choose, draw and describe our own famous person and present him/her to the group. Ages 6 +

**Wednesday 25 October, 2pm to 3pm. Brixton Library**

Contact Caroline for Bookings at [cgraham@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:cgraham@lambeth.gov.uk)



## Heroes of Our Past: Celebrating Black History Month with Children

Librarians introduce you to Black heroes from the past and celebrate them with crafts and quizzes.

**Wednesday 25 October, 2 to 4pm. Durning Library**

**Wednesday 25 October, 2.30 to 4pm. West Norwood Library**

## Drumming Workshop

Join Tony B of Happy Drums for a free drumming workshop for the whole family.



**Friday 27 October, 2.30pm. Brixton Library**

## Badge Making

Design your own badge to wear with pride. Will it feature an inspirational figure from Black History, empowering quotes or your own unique design?

**Friday 27 October, 2.30pm. South Lambeth Library**



# Schools



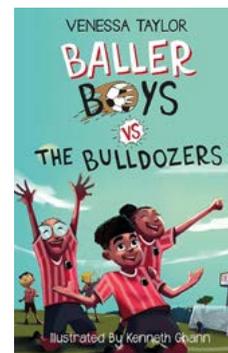
## Library Visits

Schools can enjoy visits to their local library throughout the month of October listening to traditional stories and folklore including the ever-trickster Anancy.

Contact your local library to book your visit – see inside back page for details.

## Baller Boys with Venessa Taylor

Venessa Taylor brings two decades of experience as teacher and assistant headteacher to the creation of the *Baller Boys* series. Aimed at encouraging boys to find pleasure in reading, the football-themed stories are written with young readers in mind. Venessa is passionate as



a literacy leader through her creative writing, and this paid off when *Baller Boys* was voted The Best Children's Book for The People's Book Prize 2021. Lambeth Libraries proudly welcomes Venessa to discuss her books. A fun and interactive session. For all the boys and girls who love football!

**Monday 2 October, 11am. Durning Library, SE11 4HF**

Contact Arthur for school bookings at [alech@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:alech@lambeth.gov.uk)

## Ciannon Smart: Rayleigh Mann and the Company of Monsters

Join author Ciannon Smart for a fun, educational event for everyone to remember! To get you in the magical mood, they'll be music and a chance to act out certain moments from the book and children will get to build their own story with her as she shares her writing process. Years 5, 6 and 7



**Monday 9 October, 10am. Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ**

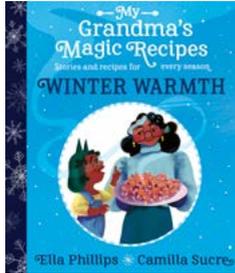
Contact Zoey for school bookings at [zcdixon@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:zcdixon@lambeth.gov.uk)





## Join Author Ella Phillips for a Sensational Children's Workshop!

Unforgettable Children's Workshop! Embark on a captivating journey with author Ella Phillips in a multi-sensory workshop that blends storytelling, interactive fun, and creativity to spark your imagination.



Including: Storytelling Magic: Gather for mesmerizing storytelling by Ella, brought alive with scents, sounds and textures; create an adventure book by gluing mementos from your adventure

onto paper; discover what Zee keeps in his adventure bag, a treasure trove of surprises – all with loads of crafts. Reception and year 1 classes.



**Monday 16 October, 2pm,  
Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ**

Contact Caroline on [cgraham@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:cgraham@lambeth.gov.uk) for bookings

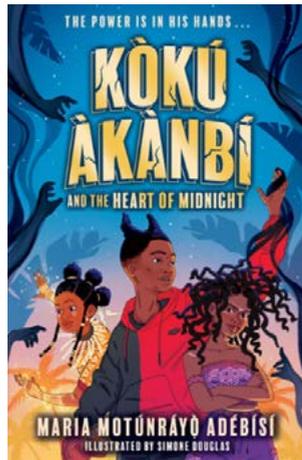
## Kòkú Akanbi and the Heart of Midnight

Join author Maria Motunrayo Adebisi to be introduced to Kòkú Akanbi.

Koku has always felt like he was cursed with a weird name and an illness to match. He thinks life can't get any worse - until he unleashes a demon on a school trip. He expects detention, but instead he's hurled into an impossible quest filled with magical tribes, man-eating monsters and vengeful mermaids. Years 5 to 6.

**Tuesday 17 October, 10.30am,  
West Norwood Library, SE27 9JX**

Contact Maria on [mkwofie@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:mkwofie@lambeth.gov.uk) for bookings



Picture  
house

dark  
matter



## 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,

The Oasis Centre,  
1 Kennington Road, SE1 7QP.  
Tel: 020 7926 8751

### West Norwood Library,

1-5 Norwood High Street SE27 9JX.  
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).

For Library booking: unless otherwise stated please book by phoning the local library or emailing [Blackhistorymonth@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:Blackhistorymonth@lambeth.gov.uk)

# Transparent Languages



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African language

[library.transparent.com/lambeth](https://library.transparent.com/lambeth)



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