



Black History Month

OCTOBER 2021

Celebrating the history and culture of Black communities in Islington.

#BHM2021

ALL
EVENTS
ARE
FREE

Challenging

Inequality

Our staff Race Equality Network formed last year following the impact of Covid 19 and the tragic murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and many other Black British and American men and women who have lost their lives due to racial hatred and injustice.

Over the last 18 months we have been hard at work raising awareness of the issues that deeply affect the Black community through educating our organisation on the different aspects of racism, approaches to implement positive change and ways to embed anti-racist practice in everything that we do. While we still have much work to do, we are certainly building momentum for the long journey we still have ahead of us in our fight for racial equality.

Thanks to our Black History Month working group #BH365 members of our Race Equality Network, we have proudly adopted an approach to celebrating Black History all year round (please keep an eye out for our events). We have created an ethos that puts learning, engagement and cultural awareness at the forefront of our organisation. This year's celebration of Black History Month not only promotes the achievements and contributions of late, great Black heroes and heroines; but also explores some of the issues and challenges that are currently experienced by our everyday heroes fighting battles that are unseen to deliver their own contributions to our society.

This programme is designed to be fully inclusive of all groups and age ranges, providing something for everyone with different influences from across the African diaspora. It is diverse and dynamic and fully embraces our Challenging Inequality focus for year two – to better understand intersectionality and how intersections shape and impact our different lived experiences.

We thank you for taking an interest in our offer and hope that you enjoy what's in store.

Islington Council's Staff Race Equality Network

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the diversity of our borough and the many local Black historical attractions we have. The contributions and impact of Black heritage and culture are significant and cannot be ignored. Black History Month presents a unique opportunity to learn something new and celebrate the achievements of our Black community as well as the fundamental part they have played in British history for centuries.

Welcome from Cllr. O'Halloran, Executive Member for Community Development



Black History Month 2021 launch event

 Thursday 30th September, 6pm – 7:45pm

 Zoom, online event

 Everyone



Keynote speaker Uju Asika

Excited to kick start Black History Month 2021 with our launch event that brings our community together to let our residents know what's in store for our month-long celebrations. Let's start as we mean to go on!

This event will feature performances from young local artists and will include talks from our residents sharing their lived experiences. In addition, author, screenwriter and blogger Uju Asika has agreed to join us as our key note speaker to talk about her book 'Bringing up Race' and dealing with the awkwardness of speaking openly with children about racism.

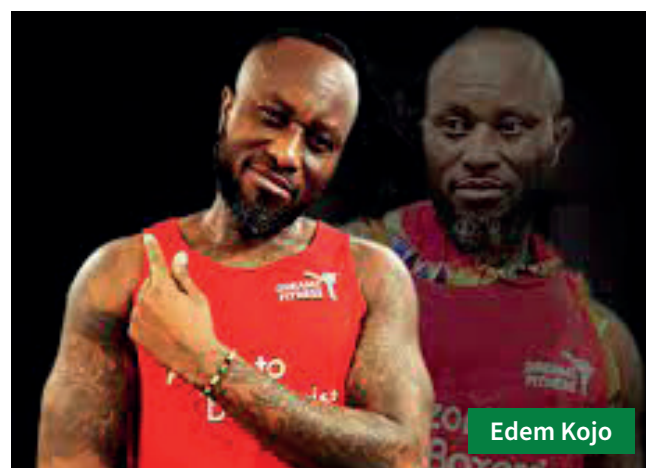
 [Book now](#)

Azontoboxercise

 Saturday 2nd and 16th October, 9:30am – 10:30am

 Register online or take part in person in Finsbury Park (meeting point is at the tennis court upon entering the park from the tube station entrance)

 Everyone



Edem Kojo

Azonto boxercise is a high impact fitness class executed to afro beat tunes. It incorporates African dance moves with boxercise, kickboxing and tae-bo and is suitable for all abilities and ages.

Edem Kojo is a personal trainer, group exercise instructor and massage therapist. He delivers his classes in The Gym Group gyms in North and Central London and carries out sessions live on social media.

 [Book now](#)



Black History walk of Islington

Saturday 2nd October, 11am – 1pm

[Book online](#)

Everyone. Please note: places are limited to 15 to adhere to social distancing rules

Undertake a two-hour walking tour through some of Islington's landmarks that are not commonly known and places of historic



significance. The tour will start in Angel and will end at Sadler's Wells Theatre. Avril Nanton will be your professional guide and will reveal insights surrounding Black History and the amazing things that have happened in the borough. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

[Book now](#)

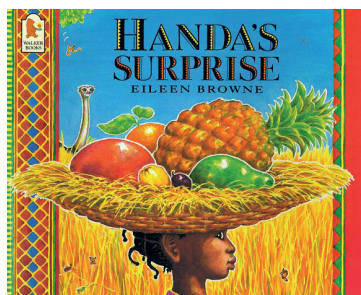
Live reading of Handa's Surprise

Tuesday 5th October, 10:00am
Thursday 7th October, 10:00am

North Library – In person

Under 5's

Meet the 'story tree tickler' as they re-tell an adaptation of this popular story. Travelling through the beautiful landscape of Africa, watch as Handa collects surprises along the way for her friend Akeyo. Become part of the colourful tale and help to give Handa the biggest surprise of all!



Passenger story – For Schools Only

Thursday 7th October, 10:00am

West Library – In person

Schools only

Celebrating over 65 years since the ship first docked at Tilbury, the story of the Empire Windrush marks the foundations of multi-cultural Britain. Meet Grace or Jacob, both passengers on board the ship from the Caribbean, as they embark on the voyage of a lifetime.

In Conversation: with Black female MPs

Thursday 7th October, 6pm – 7:30pm

Dianne Abbott MP and Dawn Butler MP

Zoom, online event

Everyone



Diane Abbott



Dawn Butler

Members of Parliament Diane Abbott and Dawn Butler discuss their experiences as Black female MPs and explore the different ways in which being Black and female has shaped their experiences. With a focus on intersectionality this event will also explore mental health and well-being, the need to balance family/personal time with professional commitments while undertaking such visible and high-profile roles.

[Book now](#)

Coffee morning sharing circle

 Friday 8th October, 11:30am – 2:30pm

 Brickworks Community Centre, 42 Crouch Hill, Finsbury Park, London N4 4BY

 Over 60s



Brickworks studio will host a coffee morning sharing circle bringing together over 60s to reminisce about the good old days and discuss how things have changed.

 Email equalities@islington.gov.uk to book or call **0207 263 1067** to confirm your attendance.

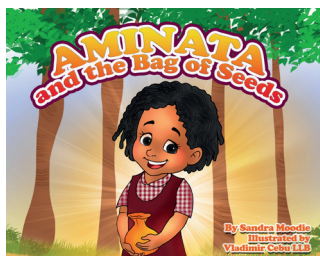
Story time for children – Reading of Aminata and the bag of seeds

 Saturday 9th October, 11:00am

 Central Library – In person

 Under 5's

Author Sandra Moodie shares her wonderful story of Aminata and the bag of seeds. Aminata is a happy little girl who attends Bojang Tamba School of Excellence in a small village called Lamin in The Gambia.



African cooking class

 Sunday 10th October, 12:00 – 13:00

 Zoom, online event

 Everyone



Try your hand at Ghanaian cooking with a live online cooking class hosted by Kay from Migrateful.

Migrateful brings you award winning cookery classes by expert refugee and migrant chefs from around the world. Ahead of this class you will receive a list of tasty ingredients you will need to buy to create a delightful dish in the comfort of your own home. For more information on what you might expect visit the [**Migrateful website**](#).

 [**Book now**](#)

In Conversation: with Black Chief Executives – a lunch time special

 Thursday 7th October, 6pm – 7:30pm

 Ade Adetosoye OBE, CEO for London Borough of Bromley
Kim Smith, CEO – London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

 Zoom, online event

 Everyone



Ade Adetosoye OBE



Kim Smith

Ade Adetosoye OBE, Chief Executive Officer for London Borough of Bromley and Kim Smith, Chief Executive Officer for London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham have agreed to be interviewed by the co-chairs of Islington Council's staff Race Equality Network, Daniel, Sharie and Tess. Both Ade and Kim will shed light on their personal journeys to executive leadership sharing insights and anecdotes about their challenges and achievements along the way.

 [Book now](#)

In Conversation: with Black Police Officers

 Thursday 14th October, 6pm – 7:30pm

 Zoom, online event

 Everyone



Born and raised in Islington, T/Superintendent Dominic Barnes and Chief Inspector Vincent Peters share their lived experiences of being Black police officers in London. Learn why they wanted to become police officers and understand the challenges they have faced and overcome. This event will also shed light on the work that Camden and Islington Police are doing within the community to engage residents from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds to build trust and lasting relationships.

 [Book now](#)



Q&A with Lloyd Bradley and Denis Bovell

Thursday 14th October, 6:30pm

Central Library – In person

Everyone

Join author Lloyd Bradley in a unique interview with Dennis Bovell the Bajan (Barbados-born) reggae guitarist, bass player and record producer.



[Book now](#)

In Conversation: With Youth Councillors

Tuesday 19th October, 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Zoom, online event

Everyone



Our driven and ambitious Youth Councillors talk to their peers about the work they do as Youth Councillors. They spill the tea on the opportunities and challenges of their roles and talk about their aspirations for Islington.

[Book now](#)

In Conversation: with members of the Black LGBTQ+ community

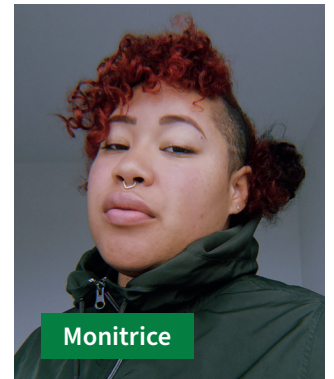
Thursday 21st October, 6pm – 7:30pm

Zoom, online event

Everyone



Kayza Rose



Monitrice

Join a panel of Black LGBTQ+ influencers and activists talking about their personal journey's, experiences and challenges. This exciting event will shed some much-needed light on specific issues that affect the Black LGBTQ+ community.

[Book now](#)



Caribbean cooking class

Sunday 24th October, 12:00 – 13:00

Book online

Everyone



A taste of the Caribbean with a Jamaican recipe.

Migrateful brings you award winning cookery classes by expert refugee and migrant chefs from around the world. Start your afternoon with Delores from Migrateful for a live Jamaican cooking class. Ahead of this class you will receive a list of the tasty ingredients you will need to buy to create a delightful dish in the comfort of your own home. For more information on what you might expect visit the [Migrateful website](#).

[Book now](#)

Paul Crooks: Tracing African Caribbean ancestry – Who do you think you are?

Wednesday 27th October, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Finsbury Library – In person

Everyone



Join Paul Crooks for an inspirational talk moving you a step closer to starting your quest for your back story and Black History.



In Conversation: with Black men about mental health

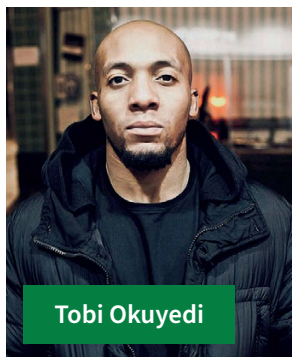
Thursday 28th October, 6pm – 7:45pm

Zoom, online event

Everyone



Louis the Hippie



Tobi Okuyedi



Nathaniel Shalom



Sarah Randall

Psychotherapist Sarah Randall conducts an open conversation with a panel of Black men around their mental health and well-being. Sarah sheds light on some of the issues she has confronted in her profession that prevents black men from accessing help and services. This event will provide a unique insight into different perspectives on mental health and will spotlight some of the struggles black men face due to racism, discrimination and stigmatisation.

[→ Book now](#)

Black History Month 2021 reading group

8th, 15th and 22nd October, 1:00pm – 2pm

Zoom, online event

Everyone



Join the Islington Library team for a Black History Month book reading of Jade Blades, 'Making it'.

Jay Blades MBE is a furniture restorer and presenter originally from Hackney. He is best known for presenting The Repair Shop, Money for Nothing and co-presenting Jay and Dom's Home Fix.

His book 'Making It' is an inspirational memoir about beating the odds and turning things around even when it all seems hopeless. In this book, Jay shares the details of his life, from his childhood growing up sheltered and innocent on a council estate in Hackney, to his adolescence when he was introduced to racism at Highbury Grove secondary school in Islington, to being brutalized by police as a teen, to finally becoming a beloved star of the hit primetime show The Repair Shop.

A limited number of books are being given away at our libraries.

[Click here](#) for e-books and e-audio books including Jay Blade's 'Making it'. This is through Borrowbox an Islington Libraries free online resource.

[→ Book now](#)

There are a huge number of amazing organisations doing great work to support and celebrate Black communities in Islington. Read on to find out more.

REWRITE

REWRITE is a community organisation founded in 2018 by Congolese-British writer, Christina Fonthes, REWRITE aims to support and champion Black women and women of colour writers by providing the tools, space and confidence they need to achieve their writing goals.

REWRITE was born out of necessity. Through the search for a supportive writing community; Christina quickly realised how exclusionary the sector was for Black women and women of colour. As a writer, she searched for a space that could grasp the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality present in her work, where she could speak freely about sexuality and womanhood without judgement, and where she did not feel pushed to write stereotypes around her heritage. After too many experiences that reduced her work, Christina decided to set up a writing group herself. She combined her skills as a workshop facilitator, a writer and performer. The first courses took place in Islington at New Beacon Books. Since then REWRITE have been holding regular courses, book reviews and publishing stories in their literary magazine.



Find out more

✉ hello@rewritelondon.com

✳ www.rewritelondon.com
www.rewritereads.com

🐦 [@rewritelondon](https://twitter.com/rewritelondon)

📷 [@rewritelondon](https://www.instagram.com/rewritelondon)

New Beacon Books

Founded in 1966 by the Trinidadian John La Rose and his English partner Sarah White, New Beacon Books was the UK's first Black publisher, specialist bookshop and international book distributor. For over 50 years New Beacon Books has made available poetry, literature, non-fiction, history and children's books from Africa, Caribbean, Asia, African America, Europe, South America and Britain. The bookshop can be found on Stroud Green Road in Finsbury Park and continues to be an active hub and warm heart of the community stocking a wide range of literature for all ages along with hosting community led initiatives, book launches, performances and cultural events in the bookshop itself; continuing New Beacon's long tradition.



Find out more

✳ www.newbeaconbooks.com

📍 76 Stroud Green Rd, London, N4 3EN



Kevin Richards Foundation Centre

The Kevin Richards Foundation was set up in 2011 by Alf and Beverly Richards in memory of their late son Kevin, a much-loved youth football coach. The foundation provides care support for the elderly and those at risk of isolation. It has become a core community for elders predominantly across north and east London, providing a regular yearly programme of coffee mornings, shared hot meals, celebrations, talks, open discussions, trips and classes including fitness and computer sessions.



 Lorraine Community Centre,
Holloway Road, London, N7 6NJ

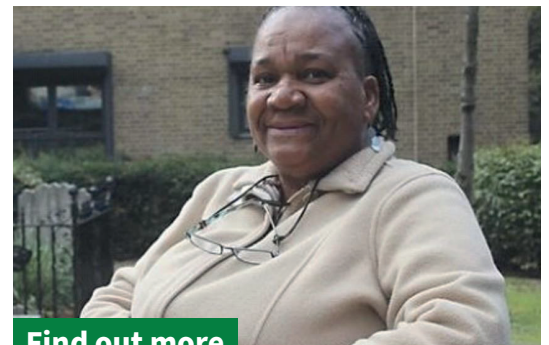
 07903295056

 krfc2@aol.co.uk

Avril's Walks and Talks

Avril's Walks and Talks was founded in 2016, by Avril Nanton who grew up in Canonbury after moving to Britain from Dominica in 1965. Tired of Black histories being reduced or erased completely by the mainstream, Avril was keen to make known the rich diverse histories of African Caribbean communities across London. She is now one of the few Black female professional guides in London. She is fully qualified and is a member of various well-known institutions such as the British Library and the London Metropolitan Archives.

Avril runs a very popular walk in Islington which you can find in this year's Black History Month programme. The walk explores the abundance of history that has happened in Islington over the years. Not many people know that the African National Congress (ANC) had their British headquarters in Islington, that the Eritrean Embassy is based in Islington and that a once famous Egyptologist lived in the area, writing about her adventures in Egypt. We hope that you can join this year's walk to find out more.



Find out more

 info@avrilswalksandtalks.co.uk

 www.avrilswalksandtalks.co.uk

 [@AvrilsWalksandTalks](https://www.instagram.com/AvrilsWalksandTalks)

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