



BLACK HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER 2020

Celebrating the history and culture of Black communities in Islington.
#BHM2020

ALL
EVENTS
ARE
FREE

WE ARE
ISLINGTON

A welcome from Cllr Una O'Halloran, Executive Member for Community Development



I am delighted to support Islington's programme of events for Black History Month 2020 and look forward to every opportunity to come together, celebrate, share, listen and learn.

Islington Council is committed to challenging inequality, racism and injustice in Islington, to making our community, our services and our workplace fairer.

This means a borough that is safe for everyone to live and work in, a borough that provides the best possible start in life so that everyone growing up in Islington can have the same life chances, and a borough where we listen to the concerns of our communities, we learn from them and we act.

A welcome from Islington Council's Staff Race Equality Network

The tragic deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black and minority ethnic communities has sparked a conversation about the systemic racism and inequality that continues to exist in society. Since then, over 50 members of Islington Council staff have been working together as the Race Equality Network to challenge inequality, racism and injustice in Islington. We have collaborated with our colleagues within Islington Council and our partners to bring you this year's Black History Month programme.

Black History Month is a platform to tell the history of the Black community, share knowledge, and give a voice to cultural traditions and carry them forward. However, Black History Month shouldn't be the only time we celebrate Black history and culture and so we intend to highlight its significant contribution to British history year-round. We're excited to bring you a range of events celebrating and highlighting the history and culture of the Black British community. Our events celebrate the role of Islington residents in shaping Black history and culture on a global level as well as the contribution that immigrants have made to our shared history and culture.

There's something for everyone to enjoy including musical performances, thought-provoking discussions, history sessions, networking events, and more.

Social distancing rules mean that most of our events are online this year, but there are plenty of opportunities to listen, share, learn, remember and reflect. All events are free, but you need to register your place.

Please join us – everyone is welcome.



Please ensure you complete your booking via the Eventbrite links. You will receive confirmation once you have booked. Places are limited on some events, so please make sure to read the booking information carefully.

TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT

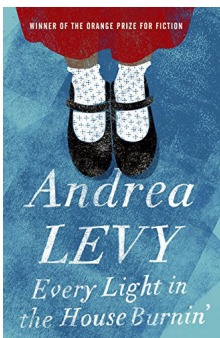
Black Lives Matter Display at the Islington Local History Centre and Online



Islington Heritage Service is creating a large display in the Islington Local History Centre for Black History Month 2020 to show support for Black Lives Matter, and to

celebrate the Black community in Islington. They are calling on people in the borough for contributions to the display or to share stories relating to Islington Black history. Items collected will be showcased on www.friendsofim.com throughout October. Please contact local.history@islington.gov.uk to make a contribution to the display for BHM and donations to the archive.

Book Lists



Islington Library and Heritage service has produced a number of booklists to celebrate and promote diversity. These lists are aimed at both adults and children and provide an insight into the issues highlighted by the Black Lives Matters movement. [See the reading lists.](#)

Person of the Day

Every day during October we will be posting about a significant black British person or Black business – keep your eyes on @IslingtonLife on Twitter.

IN SEPTEMBER

In Conversation with David Lammy

Wednesday 23 September

6-7pm

Online talk for all

David Lammy, MP for Tottenham talks about his recently published book *Tribes: How Our Need to Belong Can Make or Break Society*.

[Book now](#)

IN OCTOBER

IJAHMO – music and movement for 0-6 years

Friday 2 October

Friday 9 October

10.30-11.30am

Online event for kids



Come and step into IJAHMO world of music and movement.

In this session IJAHMO will perform nursery rhymes given a reggae make over with some traditional Igbo rhymes. For children ages 0-6 years to dance along.

[Book now](#)



Black History Walk of Islington

Saturday 3 October

Tuesday 6 October

Saturday 24 October

11am-1pm

Walking tour



A two-hour walking tour through some of Islington's little-known landmarks and places of significance. Starting at Angel, your professional guide Avril Nanton will reveal the abundance of Black history

and the amazing things that have happened in the borough.

Places are limited and booking is essential.

[Book now](#)

Jermain Jackman - Knee on Neck

Monday 5 October

6-7pm

Online event for all



Jermain Jackman is a British singer and political activist who won the 3rd series of the BBC television singing competition The Voice UK in 2014. Jermain is a candidate for the Labour Party National Executive Committee. Jermain will be talking about Knee on Neck, a

look at the Black Lives Matter movement.

[Book now](#)

Paul Crooks: Black History for Beginners: Africa before Capitalism, Enslavement and Abolition, and The Windrush Generation

Tuesday 6 October

6-7.30pm

Online talk for all



Paul Crooks is unique as a published author and trailblazing genealogist with a specialist interest in Black ancestry. Paul will highlight key topics/ events along the Black History timeline, emphasising events where African and diasporans have taken action - on a grand scale - to shape their future and the future of others.

This talk will:

Support people improve their understanding of the connections between African, Caribbean and British history.

Inspire, encourage and uplift people of African Caribbean descent.

For more about Paul Crooks visit

www.paulcrooks.info

[Book now](#)



PAPA L'S KITCHEN African Fusion Cuisine online cooking class

Saturday 10 October

11am-12 noon

Online cooking class



Have you ever wanted to try your hand at some African Cuisine but not sure where to start? Start your Saturday morning with a live cooking lesson with an expert chef in the business: PAPA L's KITCHEN on Zoom for an African Fusion cooking class.

You'll be sent the list of ingredients beforehand. By the end of the session you will have prepared a tasty dish and be ready to kick start your weekend. Take a look at PAPA L'S KITCHEN website for a taste of what to expect:

[PAPA L'S KITCHEN](#)

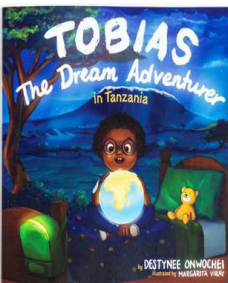
[Book now](#)

Children's book reading - Tobias The Dream Adventurer by Destynnee Onwochei

Monday 12 October

11am-12 noon

Online children's book reading



Join author Destynnee Onwochei in a live reading of her debut children's book Tobias The Dream Adventurer. The book follows a little boy, Tobias, who ventures up the amazing World Wonder that is Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania with his friend Nalah, to help her revive her father's passion of being a mountain guide.

See [further information](#) about the book

[Book now](#)

Being a Black or minority ethnic Trustee

Tuesday 13 October

12 noon-1pm

Online talk for all

Join the Big Alliance for a panel conversation with local Black or minority ethnic Trustees to hear about their experiences and how to become a Trustee for a charity.

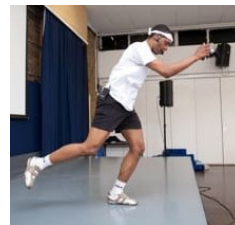
[Book now](#)

Socarobics

Wednesday 14 October

6.30-7.15pm

Online exercise class



Come and join us for a fun filled 45 minutes of fun. We are going to bring the energy and fun of the Caribbean to your home by dancing and exercising to Soca. The key word is fun as that's what this session is all about.

Come prepared for a workout!

[Book now](#)

Black British Civil Rights Movement

- Danny Thompson

Thursday 15 October

6-7.30pm

Online talk for all



This presentation delivered by Black Studies tutor and artist, Danny Thompson shows the journey of Black British activism from the Windrush 1948 to the creation of Black History Month itself.

As well as our political activism it shows our deep cultural influence in the UK from Calypso and ska in the 1950s to Grime today, as well as our achievements in areas of fashion, sports, entertainment, etc.

Find out more about Danny Thompson visit www.evolvingcreatives.com

[Book now](#)



Writing for Healing and Self-Care Workshop

Saturday 17 October

1-2.30pm

Online workshop



This inspiring workshop will help you explore creative writing as part of your self-care practice. The workshop will be part exercise, part discussion, and part laughter.

You will explore new ways of writing poetry and prose. As well as writing, you will discover (and re-discover) works by Black women and Women of Colour writers.

All materials and resources will be provided, just bring your pen and pads. The workshop is open to all levels and abilities.

This workshop will be facilitated by REWRITE who run creative writing courses designed specifically for Black Women and Women of Colour.

[Book now](#)

The Liliesleaf Trust UK

Monday 19 October

12.30-1.30pm

Online talk for all

The Liliesleaf Trust UK are redeveloping 28 Penton Street, the former London HQ of the African National Congress into a Centre of Memory of Learning. Project Manager, Caroline Kamana, will be talking about this largely under known piece of Islington's heritage, its wider historical context and plans for making accessible its local and globally important legacy, crucially relevant in a world still rife with injustice.

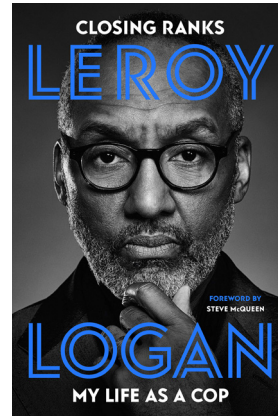
[Book now](#)

In Conversation with Leroy Logan MBE

Tuesday 20 October

6-7.30pm

Online talk for all



Join us for a conversation with Dr Leroy Logan MBE. Leroy, a former Islington resident had a 30-year career with the Metropolitan Police, and is founder of the Black Police Association. In September 2020, Leroy will be launching his debut book *Closing Ranks: My Life as a Cop*. In addition to Leroy's success, British-born actor

John Boyega is set to play Leroy Logan in Steve McQueen's upcoming anthology series *Small Axe*. The talk will centre on Leroy's career journey, leadership through adversity, and success.

[Book now](#)

Black Women in Music – Robin Walker

Wednesday 21 October

6-7.45pm

Online talk for all

Robin Walker, also known as The Black History Man, is the foremost historian and writer on all matters related to ancient and medieval African history.

This highly informative and inspirational presentation tells the story of Black women in the origin and evolution of music. This journey takes us from Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith, through the giants of the Jazz era, through the Soul and Gospel eras, the Classical divas, through the Hip-Hop era up to the present period. Among the great artists discussed are Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Mahalia Jackson, Jessye Norman and Missy Elliott.

[Book now](#)



Islington's Black History Virtual Walking Tour

Thursday 22 October

12 noon-1.30pm

Virtual walking tour

Join local Black History tour guide Avril Nanton for a virtual walking tour of places of Black historical significance in Islington. Find out about the first Black cultural arts centre, the history of the African National Congress, Islington's Egyptian links and the legacies of Black revolutionary politicians and activists, such as Claudia Jones and Angela Davis and their encounters in the borough. The talk will take place on Zoom and is perfect for those who can't make the in-person walking tours earlier in the month.

[Book now](#)

Caribbean Cooking Class with Garfield's Flava

Saturday 24 October

11am-12 noon

Online cooking class



Have you ever wanted to try your hand at some Caribbean Cuisine but not sure where to start? Start your Saturday morning with a live cooking lesson with an expert chef

in the business. Join Garfield's Flava on Zoom for a step-by-step guide. You'll be sent a list of ingredients beforehand and by the end of the session will have prepared a tasty dish – ready to start your weekend. For a taste of what to expect take a look on their [Instagram page](#)

[Book now](#)

Black Scientists and Inventors

Tuesday 27 October

6-7.30pm

Online talk for all



Join Black History Walks for a fascinating, comprehensive run down of everyday appliances developed by Black people as well as phenomenal scientific

achievements that have gone unnoticed. Areas include: blood transfusion, nuclear technology, video games, ancient African astronomy, vaccinations, torpedoes, space, computers, optometry, biology, mechanics and architecture.

[Book now](#)

Black Mental Health Matters – a conversation with Black Thrive

Thursday 29 October

4-5pm

Online talk for all



Join us for a conversation with Black Thrive: a partnership for Black wellbeing working to create systems change that will see Black communities thrive.

Black Thrive connect structural injustice, racism and mental health through their work around school exclusions, the use of the Mental Health Act, safe access to health and care services, access to employment and violence affecting youth. They are working between statutory services and community networks in Lambeth.

[Book now](#)



Afrikan Literary Heritage Workshop with Danny Thompson

Saturday 31 October

11am-12.30pm

Online workshop for families

Join Danny Thompson online as he takes you on a journey of Afrikan Literature through the Ancient and Mediaeval periods to the Modern Era; and the Impact of Afro-Caribbean culture on The English Language and Literature.

[Book now](#)



If you would like a BSL (British Sign Language) interpreter, please contact partnerships@islington.gov.uk for further information. Please give as much notice as possible.

Please note, a guide will be provided upon booking which explains how to access our online events.



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

Email: hello@rewritelondon.com

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

Website: www.rewritelondon.com
www.rewritereads.com

Instagram: [@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

Website: www.newbeaconbooks.com

Address: 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.



Find out more

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

Tel: 07903295056

Email: 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

Website: www.avrilswalksandtalks.co.uk

Social media: @AvrilsWalksandTalks

Email: info@avrilswalksandtalks.co.uk

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