



# PASSING THE BATON

BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
1st - 31st OCT 2010



# **Black History Month Statement**

## **Introduction**

The aims of the Black History Month Events Group are to:

- Promote universal knowledge of Black History, Culture and Heritage.
- Disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British Society and the wider world.
- Heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people to their cultural heritage.

The Black History Month Events Group shares the Council's vision: "for a city where inequalities cease to exist and where people from all communities live and work together with mutual understanding and respect." We believe that this goal can only be fully achieved in partnership.

Black History Month plays an important part in bringing people of all cultures together to move collectively towards our vision, by giving people in our community the opportunity to explore and learn more about Black history and culture, more importantly the roles and contributions Black people have made in shaping the history of this country, which is often overlooked.

We encourage and invite people living in and outside Wolverhampton to support these events and in doing so, help in creating a cohesive society, where racism is not accepted nor tolerated, where everyone is treated according to their needs and rights and where cultural diversity is celebrated. We appreciate the time and effort people from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors have put into organising events for Black History Month and in producing this Programme.

## **Black History Month Origins**

At the height of their power, French and British colonialists began re-writing the history of human civilization. In doing so they removed the history of African civilizations from the annals of world history. From then till now Black people around the world have struggled to have their history and cultural heritage recognised and accepted by all.

In 1926, Carter G Woodson, the editor of the Journal of Negro History launched the first African-American cultural heritage celebrations. It was called 'Negro History Week'. This grew into the celebrations known from 1976 onwards, as Black History Month. Black History Month celebrations are held in February each year in the USA and each October in the United Kingdom. South Africa also celebrates Black History Month.

## **Black History Month in Britain**

In Britain, the drive toward recognising Black historical contributions began shortly after the first post war African-Caribbean migrants arrived in Britain. The first post-war Black history lessons in Britain were taught in supplementary education projects. The Black community also campaigned against discrimination in schools, and for the teaching of Black history in schools.

Activists within the Black community also organised cultural heritage events to promote knowledge of Black history and culture. Berry Edwards in Manchester organised Caribbean Week in the 1970s, and Eric and Jessica Huntley from Ealing regularly organised a Caribbean week in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Black History Month in Britain took place for the first time in London on October 1987 on the recommendation of the now defunct London Strategic Policy Committee as part of their African Jubilee Year Marcus Garvey Centenary Celebrations. By the 1990's voluntary, statutory and private sectors have been celebrating BHM on an annual basis in October.

## **Black History Month in Wolverhampton**

In Wolverhampton individuals like Eric Pemberton (the first director of the former Afro Caribbean Cultural Centre) were the pioneers who put African Caribbean Studies on the schools curriculum. In addition, Harambee Association organised the town's first African-Caribbean Cultural Weekend in October 1978.

In 1998 individuals from the community of Wolverhampton came together and formed a Windrush Committee to organise a local event in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the landing of the Empire Windrush at Tilbury, which carried a significant number of African-Caribbean migrants to Britain. This event was an overwhelming success and was featured prominently on TV and broadcasted on the radio. This Committee together with the Senior Policy and Equality Officer of Wolverhampton Council was then successful in getting other organisations from the community, voluntary and statutory sectors in organising and celebrating Wolverhampton's first Black History Month in 2000. This is Wolverhampton's tenth Black History Month, which also acknowledges and list events taking place throughout September , October & November. The events in this Programme are educational and entertaining, and are open to the general public unless specified.

It is hoped that these events will promote initiatives to encourage racial harmony and respect of the diverse cultures and skills amongst people in the community in Wolverhampton. Do support these events by encouraging your partner, friends and relatives to come along and join in these celebrations.

In 2010 David Bennett took on the role of chairing the Black History Month Events Group. This BHM programme is supported by Wolverhampton City Council. We also acknowledge the support provided to the Black History Month Events Group this year, by the following individuals and organisations:

- Archives & Local Studies Centre
- Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project
- Elite Karate Association
- Gazebo Theatre in Education Company
- Jamaica 2K
- Equality and Diversity Unit (University of Wolverhampton)
- Wolverhampton Arts & Museums Service
- Wolverhampton City Council
- Wolverhampton HOMES
- Yasus Afari

## **Forward by the Right Worshipful Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett**

I am delighted to congratulate all those who have organised activities to celebrate this year's Black and Asian History Season in Wolverhampton. A lot of effort has gone into planning a range of cultural and educational activities, many of which are listed in this brochure. Black History Month brings together diverse communities and encourages mutual respect and community cohesion.

Wolverhampton figures prominently in the history of Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Britain. The Black and Asian History Season gives us all an opportunity to explore and celebrate the contributions that Black Wulfrunians have made to our City, and to ensure that our young people understand about Black History as part of our shared histories.

This year the Black History Month Launch Event will bring together the 'older' and 'younger' BME communities with a celebration of African Civilizations and ancient cultural traditions.

I hope you find these events educational and entertaining, and I look forward to meeting many of you at the events.



**Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett**  
Right Worshipful Mayor of Wolverhampton

## **Promoting Black and South Asian History Activities and Campaigns**

Wolverhampton celebrates the contributions BME communities have made to Britain. The Black and South Asian History Season runs from September to November 2010. September is the month dedicated to celebrating the contributions of people of South Asian origin, to the City and to Britain. The month of October serves a similar purpose for people of Black African descent. November is an important month in the cultural calendar of South Asian communities worldwide.

As well as listing local activities, this brochure includes information on other activities and campaigns of note, such as the proposed Windrush Day and the Timbuktu Manuscripts Campaign; and information that may be of use to organisers of future Black or Asian History activities.

**David Bennett**

Chair – Wolverhampton Black History Events Group

# MONDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER

## South Asian History Month 2010: Pioneers in Healthcare

We have gathered together a static display of Asian pioneers in healthcare to illustrate the contribution they made to the health and welfare we all enjoy

**Ettu** – the Yoruba song and dance survives  
today in the parish of Hanover, Jamaica.

- Time:** 9am – 5pm  
**Cost:** Free  
**Venue:** The Event (display space near to Greggs),  
New Cross Hospital  
**Disabled Access:** Yes  
**Open to Public:** Yes

For further information contact James Orotayo, Chair, Black & Minority Ethnic Staff Support Group, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, Room F101, Clinical Skills & Corporate Services Centre, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP. Telephone: 01902 307999 x 8128

- Organiser:** James Orotayo, Black & Minority Ethnic Staff Support Group, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust

# MONDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER

## Black History Month 2010: Pioneers in Healthcare

We have gathered together a static display of Asian pioneers in healthcare to illustrate the contribution they made to the health and welfare we all enjoy

We came from Africa, a great continent, a land which was  
the cradle of civilization. Our culture And our history are as old  
as man Himself  
**Malcolm X**

**Time:** 9am – 5pm  
**Cost:** Free  
**Venue:** Wolverhampton Medical Institute,  
New Cross Hospital  
**Disabled Access:** Yes  
**Open to Public:** Yes

For further information contact James Orotayo, Chair, Black & Minority Ethnic Staff Support Group, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, Room F101, Clinical Skills & Corporate Services Centre, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP. Telephone: 01902 307999 x 8128

**Organiser:** James Orotayo, Black & Minority Ethnic Staff Support Group, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust

**FRIDAY 1ST – SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2010**

**Rivers to Cross – The Legacy- tour of secondary schools**

Following their hugely successful show, “Sweet Tooth”, Gazebo Theatre presents the next instalment of the Trilogy. Kicking off where “Sweet Tooth” left off, “Rivers to Cross” takes pupils on a 172 year journey, through Colonialism and Empire, Segregation, The Colour Bar, “Windrush” and the Black Consciousness Movement, telling the true stories of great accomplishments.

Featuring Sylvester Williams (EastEnders, Bullet Boy) and Oraine Johnson (AKA Rainboy) playing a host of greats including Ira Aldridge, Walter Tull, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Dr Harold Moody, Paul Robeson and President Barack Obama, this multi-media show explores identity and notions of race from a black male perspective.

**Africans lived in Scotland** in the early 16th century.  
During that time Africans also lived in **Barnstaple, London** and **Plymouth**.

- Time:** Varies
- Cost:** Available upon enquiry
- Venue:** Various
- Disabled Access:** Yes
- Open to Public:** Open to school and community bookings

For further information contact Gazebo Theatre in Education.  
Telephone: 01902 497222,  
Email: [admin@gazebotie.org](mailto:admin@gazebotie.org)

**Organiser:** Pamela Cole-Hudson,  
Gazebo Theatre in Education



SATURDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2010

## Black History Month Launch

This year Black History Month will be launched at Wolverhampton Art Gallery. There will be plenty of activities ranging from African face painting to traditional African fashion shows and traditional African and Caribbean dancing.

The word “**Admiral**” comes from “Amir-al-Bahr” (Lord of the Seas). Amir-al-Bahr was a commander of the North African sea rovers. The sea rovers were pirates who raided the coasts and ships of Europe, from ancient times to the 19th century.

**Time:** 11 am – 4.30pm and 5.30pm – 9pm  
**Cost:** Free  
**Venue:** Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton  
**Disabled Access:** Yes  
**Open to Public:** Yes

For further information contact Francis Nielsen at Wolverhampton Art Gallery 01902 552055 or visit [www.wolverhamptonart.org](http://www.wolverhamptonart.org)

**Organiser:** Francis Nielsen, Arts and Heritage Services, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton

## MONDAY 4TH TO FRIDAY 8TH OCTOBER

### Black History Month 2010: Pioneers in Healthcare

We have gathered together a static display of Black pioneers in healthcare to illustrate the contribution they made to the health and welfare we all enjoy.

**When elephants fight it's just the grass that suffers.**  
A proverb from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Time:** 9am – 5pm
- Cost:** Free
- Venue:** The Event (display space near to Greggs),  
New Cross Hospital
- Disabled Access:** Yes
- Open to Public:** Yes

For further information contact James Orotayo, Chair, Black & Minority Ethnic Staff Support Group, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, Room F101, Clinical Skills & Corporate Services Centre, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP. Telephone: 01902 307999 x 8128

- Organiser:** James Orotayo, Black & Minority Ethnic Staff Support Group, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust

FRIDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2010

## Rivers to Cross – The Legacy

Following their hugely successful show, “Sweet Tooth”, Gazebo Theatre presents the next instalment of the Trilogy. Kicking off where “Sweet Tooth” left off, “Rivers to Cross” takes the audience on a 172 year journey, through Colonialism and Empire, Segregation, The Colour Bar, “Windrush” and the Black Consciousness Movement, telling the true stories of great accomplishments.

Featuring Sylvester Williams (EastEnders, Bullet Boy) and Oraine Johnson (AKA Rainboy) playing a host of greats including Ira Aldridge, Walter Tull, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Dr Harold Moody, Paul Robeson and President Barack Obama, this multi-media show explores identity and notions of race from a black male perspective.

**Knowledge is like a garden: if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested.**

A proverb from the Cameroon

**Time:** 8pm  
**Cost:** £8 / £6  
**Venue:** Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE  
**Disabled Access:** Yes  
**Open to Public:** Yes

For tickets call 01902 321321

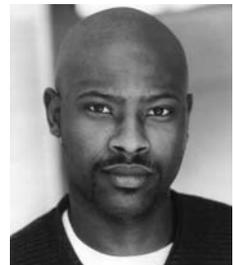
### Comments about “Sweet Tooth”

‘One moving, amazing show!’

‘Visually excellent’

‘An eye opener to the truth’

**Organiser:** Gazebo Theatre  
in Education Company  
Bilston Town Hall,  
Church Street, Bilston,  
WV14 0AP



## MONDAY 11TH TO FRIDAY 15TH OCTOBER

### Black History Month 2010: Pioneers in Healthcare

We have gathered together a static display of Black pioneers in healthcare to illustrate the contribution they made to the health and welfare we all enjoy.

In 1764 20,000 of a population of 700,000 were  
**Black Londoners.**

- Time:** 9am – 5pm  
**Cost:** Free  
**Venue:** Wolverhampton Medical Institute, New Cross Hospital  
**Disabled Access:** Yes  
**Open to Public:** Yes

For further information contact James Orotayo, Chair, Black & Minority Ethnic Staff Support Group, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, Room F101, Clinical Skills & Corporate Services Centre, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP. Telephone: 01902 307999 x 8128

- Organiser:** James Orotayo, Black & Minority Ethnic Staff Support Group, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust

TUESDAY 12TH OCTOBER

## City Voices

Local black writers will perform their work. All welcome.

**A coin in cash is better than ten on credit.**

A Bambara proverb.

<b>Time:</b>	7:45pm – 9:15pm
<b>Cost:</b>	Free
<b>Venue:</b>	City Bar, 2 – 3 Kings Street, Wolverhampton
<b>Disabled Access:</b>	Yes
<b>Open to Public:</b>	Yes

For further information contact Wolverhampton Libraries 01902 552061 or visit [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/libraries).

**Organiser:** Mandy Richards, Wolverhampton Libraries,  
Wolverhampton

## THURSDAY 14TH OCTOBER

### Rivers to Cross at Graiseley Primary School

A 172 year journey through the lives of great men, from Ira Aldridge to Walter Tull to Harold Moody and the ex-RAF personnel who travelled to England onboard the SS Empire Windrush, presented by Gazebo Theatre in Education Company.

**Capoeira** – the martial art originated in Africa. Capoeira came to Brazil where it was used by freed slaves to defend the republic of Palmares.

**Time:** 7pm  
**Cost:** Free  
**Venue:** Graiseley Primary School, Graiseley Hill,  
Wolverhampton, WV2 4NE  
**Disabled Access:** Yes  
**Open to Public:** Yes

For further information or to book a place contact: Sofia Haider (ABCD) on 01902 556166, or Sharalyn Shea (Graiseley School on 01902 558746)

**Organiser:** ABCD New Deal for Communities Wolverhampton  
and Graiseley Primary School

# THURSDAY 14TH OCTOBER

## Black History As We've Lived It

A Joint event with the University of Wolverhampton's, Equality and Diversity Unit and the Lighthouse Media Centre, Wolverhampton

The event will be opened by Professor Caroline Gipps, Vice Chancellor for the University. Key note speaker Anita Bhalla DL, OBE, Editor Public Space Broadcasting BBC, will present "My Way" a talk about Anita's life journey starting in Nairobi to growing up in the West Midlands and guest speaker David Bennett, Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project will give a talk on the Windrush Archive Display.

There will be a chance ask questions at the end of the sessions, and BHM artworks by School of Art & Design (SAD) students will be on display on the balcony gallery. The display will be coordinated by Maggie Ayliffe, Course Leader for Fine Art from Mon 11 October.

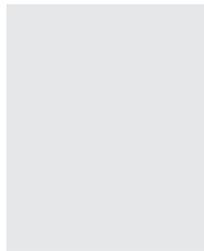
"If you set your mind to it and you believe in yourself you can do anything you want". [quoted in Wolverhampton Chronicle – 17 November 2000]

**Denise Lewis** – Olympic Gold medal winner in the Heptathlon

- Time:** 11 am – 3pm  
**Cost:** Free. To book a place email [edu@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:edu@wlv.ac.uk)  
**Venue:** Light House, The Chubb Buildings, Fryer St, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT  
**Disabled Access:** Yes  
**Open to Public:** Yes

For further information contact Bali Brophy on 01902 322954 or email [edu@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:edu@wlv.ac.uk).

**Organiser:** University of Wolverhampton, Equality and Diversity Unit, and Light House, The Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT



THURSDAY 14TH OCTOBER

## National Theatre Live presents **A Disappearing Number**

National Theatre Live presents Complicite's *A Disappearing Number* live from Theatre Royal Plymouth streamed to the big screen at Light House. Directed by Simon McBurney, *A Disappearing Number* opened in Plymouth in 2007 and has subsequently toured all over the world.

*A Disappearing Number* weaves together the story of two love affairs separated by a century and a continent. The first happens now. The second is set in 1914. It tells of the heartbreaking collaboration between the greatest natural mathematician of the 20th century. Srinivassa Ramanujan, a penniless Brahmin from Madras in South India, and his British counterpart, the brilliant Cambridge don GH Hardy.

With an original score by Nitin Sawhney, this piece of starting visual poetry from Simon Mc Burney and Complicite is a compelling mediation on love, mathematics and the pain of exile in an age when we think we can belong anywhere and have everything.

Awards include the Olivier Award for Best New Play (2008), the Evening Standard Theatre Award for Best Play (2007) and the Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Best New Play (2007).

**Advise and counsel him; if he does not listen, let adversity teach him.**  
A proverb from Ethiopia.

**Time:** 6.45pm  
**Cost:** £11.50 full/£10.50 conc  
**Venue:** Lighthouse, The Chubb Buildings, Fryer St,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT  
**Disabled Access:** Yes  
**Open to Public:** Yes

For further information contact Box Office: 01902 716055  
Email: [info@light-house.co.uk](mailto:info@light-house.co.uk) / [www.light-house.co.uk](http://www.light-house.co.uk)

**Organiser:** Light House

## SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER

### “Da House of Comedy-the Stand up Comedy & Gameshow” (With MTV BASE Eddie Kadi)

“Da House of Comedy” da stand up comedy & Gameshow LIVE!!!!  
(For the 1st time in Wolverhampton) with Award Winning “Eddie Kadi (MTV Base)”

Bringing some of radio&TVs famous games then putting on stage inc:

- Da link up
- Yes or No Game
- Strictly come dancing (Urban Edition).

Prizes inc: Nintendo DSi and River Island shopping Vouchers.

Joined by:

- Award Winning: Eddie Kadi
- Jamie Howard
- A-DOT
- Dennis
- Superman Davey

Special Guest Live on stage: Tribal Man (Channel AKA) performing HITS inc:  
Seasons (tribal skank) and Feeling Funky.

Supporting acts: Wolverhampton soulful singer: Chantelle Solomon  
(performing tribute to Dread Lestor)

Eye-Solate Dancers.

Music by: Harm KID (irieuk.net)

A picture in the abbreviated index of the Doomsday Book,  
contains the earliest known image of a **Black Briton**.

**Time:** 7pm - 10:30pm  
**Cost:** £15 and £13.50 (for students and OAPs)  
**Venue:** Lighthouse, The Chubb Buildings, Fryer St,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT  
**Disabled Access:** Yes  
**Open to Public:** Yes

For further information contact “Da House of Comedy Team”: 07951 439 266

**Organiser:** H’K Entertainments

## SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER

This Black History Month Celebration is a Community led event organised by All Cultures One Voice & Reggaevity to bring together Wolverhampton's Church, Youth, Business and wider Community through Music, Food and Culture.

The event will showcase a rich mix of live Musical and Cultural Entertainers from Wolverhampton's diverse community sharing their History, Heritage and Culture through performance.

A traditional hot Caribbean buffet will be available giving the community an opportunity to experience the rich Caribbean flavours.

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

**Booker T. Washington**

<b>Time:</b>	7pm - 10:30pm
<b>Cost:</b>	Corporate tables of 8 for this prestigious event are available at a cost of £150.00 (This includes 8 complimentary Guest admission Full hot Caribbean/world buffet 2 bottles of wine). Individual tickets are priced at £20.00.
<b>Venue:</b>	Springvale sports and social Club, Millfields Road Bilston WV14 0QR
<b>Disabled Access:</b>	Yes
<b>Open to Public:</b>	Yes

For further information or ticket enquiries email [reggaevity@gmail.com](mailto:reggaevity@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 07831 505 303

**Organiser:** All Cultures One Voice & Reggaevity

## FRIDAY 22ND OCTOBER

### **Black History Month Celebration- Empowering Women – Learning from the Past- Looking to the future/ “Walking into your Destiny”.**

An evening of Inspiring and Motivational Speakers, Poetry, Drama etc

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced”.  
**James Baldwin**

**Time:** 7pm - 9:30pm  
**Cost:** £3.50  
**Venue:** Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, Wolverhampton  
**Disabled Access:** Yes  
**Open to Public:** Yes

For further information contact Pendford library 01902 556250 or visit [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/libraries)

**Organiser:** Lorna Allen, 42 Probert Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton, WV10 6UD

**THURSDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 2010**

**Rivers to Cross**

Gazebo theatre present extracts from their new play, graphics workshop, face painting, competitions and more. Come and join the family fun to celebrate Black History Month.

“It’s important for my generation to realise we can try to change things”.  
[quoted in Express & Star, 21 st October 2004]  
**Jamelia** - **MOBO** award winning R’n’B singer

- Time:** 4pm – 7pm
- Cost:** Free
- Venue:** Pendeford Library, Whitburn Close Wolverhampton
- Disabled Access:** Yes
- Open to Public:** Yes

For further information contact Pendford library 01902 556250 or visit [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/libraries)

**Organiser:** Mandy Richards, Pendeford Library,  
Whitburn Close, Wolverhampton

THURSDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 2010

## Little Krishna

Light House presents the British premiere of the Indian produced animated film chronicling the remarkable stories of the legendary prankster, Krishna. Produced by multi award winning studio, Big Animation.

Little Krishna is the darling of Vrindavan, the land of peace and tranquillity, which is constantly threatened by the malice of evil king Kamsa. A prophecy had threatened Kamsa that his evil reign is over, and a savior will descend on earth to make Kamsa meet his worst adversity in life, which is his death. The only objective of Kamsa's life therefore, was to find his angel of death.

Action, adventure, music, heroic valor, selfless deeds, emotional trysts; all packaged as compelling family entertainment bringing the Krishna stories to life for a new generation.

This programme is supported by Sampad and Big Animation Studio

**Mohamet and Mustapha** – Black Africans from the Sudan, were the personal attendants of George I (1714 – 1727). Both men controlled access to the king.

- Time:** 2pm
- Cost:** £3, group booking discounts available
- Venue:** Light House, The Chubb Buildings, Fryer St, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT
- Disabled Access:** Yes
- Open to Public:** Yes

For further information contact: Light House box office, 01902 716055.

**Organisers:** Light House

## SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

### The City of Wolverhampton Black History Maker Awards

Following the success of the inaugural Awards Gala, Communities United to Serve Humanity (CUSH), and the Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project invite all to this year's Awards evening.

The City of Wolverhampton Black History Maker Awards honours Black Wulfrunians whose efforts positively promote, and are conducive to the uniqueness of the Black Community in the City of Wolverhampton.

Categories: Art, Civic, Education, Entertainment, Law Media, Political, Religion, Science, Sports and Style Makers.

A dinner and live entertainment by Sandra Cross will be provided on the night.

**'Blackamoor'** or **'Moor'** were words used to describe Africans in the middle ages. The name was originally given to the Amoravid and Almahid Africans who ruled Spain from 711 to 1492.

<b>Time:</b>	7.30pm – Late
<b>Cost:</b>	£23.50
<b>Venue:</b>	Goodyear Pavillion, Stafford Road, Wolverhampton
<b>Disabled Access:</b>	Yes
<b>Open to Public:</b>	Yes

For further information email: Bill Brown on 07906994192

**Organisers:** Communities United to Serve Humanity in conjunction with the Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project



**DATE: PLEASE CONTACT RICHARD WHITTER FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.**

## **Real Kool to Succeed Wolverhampton's Got Talent**

As part of the Real Kool to Succeed programme, the students from Wolverhampton schools will have the opportunity to demonstrate their gifts and talents to a panel that will choose winners to receive awards at a ceremony in November.

**Black people outnumbered their European counterparts in 16th century Lisbon.**

- Time:** 4pm – 6pm
- Cost:** Free
- Venue:** Please contact Richard Whitter for further information
- Disabled Access:** Yes
- Open to Public:** No

For further information email: [Richard.whitter@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.whitter@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

**Organisers:** Richard Whitter



## **Anita Bhalla DL, OBE**

Anita is currently Editor Public Space Broadcasting for the BBC. This is a UK wide project running a number of Big Screens and Live Sites in collaboration with London 2012, City Council, Arts, Education and Community organisations.

She trained as a teacher and has worked as a Community Relations Officer in Leicester, a Community Worker with the Asian Resource Centre in Handsworth, Birmingham, where she set up and ran a hostel for Asian Women (one of the first in the country). She has also worked as a lecturer teaching language and employment skills to Industrial workers in the Midlands, alongside training their managers in effective equal opportunity practices.

Anita's career in broadcasting has been varied. From presenting a local radio programme for the Asian Community in Birmingham she went on to present Channel 4's Eastern Eye (the first Asian magazine programme in English). She then took up full time employment with the BBC and developed the Radio Asian Network in the West Midlands (this is now a national digital service).

Her next move was to BBC Television News, where she became one of the first regionally based bi-media correspondents when she became the Community Affairs Correspondent for the Midlands. During this time she produced several documentaries for network television and national radio as well as daily news reports. She also had her own series on Radio 2. She went on to become Social Affairs and Education Correspondent and for a while took on the role of Editor Newsgathering and Managing Editor of one of the region's local radio stations (BBC Hereford and Worcester).

Anita has won several awards including the CRE Race in the Media national Television News Award. In 2000 she won the Impact Magazines Windrush Award as the Broadcaster of the Year. She has very recently stepped down as President of Circom Regional, a European wide group of public service regional broadcasters. In 2007, Anita received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Wolverhampton for services to Media and Community.

In 2009 she was awarded an OBE for her services to broadcasting.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

Throughout her life Anita has maintained a strong commitment to issues of justice, from being a member of the Independent Commission on Social Justice to being Chair of Governors of Grestone Junior and Infant School.

Currently she is a chair of the Midlands Arts Centre a community based arts centre with a turnover of 3 million pounds that attracts over half a million users per year. The centre has just completed a £15.8 million building project. She is a Trustee of the Symphony Hall, and a Fellow of the RSA.

Anita is a Governor of Birmingham City University. In the past she has been a member of the Department of Education and Employment's Race, Education and Employment Forum, Home Secretary nominee on the appointments panel for the West Midlands Police, Culture West Midlands and of Birmingham City Council's Stephen Lawrence Public Policy Review Panel which carried out a comprehensive review of the services offered by the City and recommended action and policy changes.

Anita has been involved with many community groups including being Treasurer of the Asian Resource Centre, Birmingham.



## Sandra Cross

Sandra was born to Jamaican parentage in London, England, and was the only girl, second to last in rank, in a large family of seven boys! Her parents were strict churchgoers so it was in the local Pentecostal church her talent for playing the piano, singing and writing songs was discovered. At school she would spend each lunch hour of every day in the School's music room writing songs accompanying herself with the piano. Eventually, it became a 'regular' meeting place where all the young teenage girls would struggle to fit into the small

room just to hear Sandra's songs. They would afterwards leave with tears streaming down their faces, overwhelmed with admiration for Sandra's talent and performances. At 14 years old after a lot of persuasion from her school mates Sandra entered a local talent contest with a friend who called themselves 'Love & Unity', performing one of her songs entitled 'I Adore You'. The duo won the contest and accepted the prize of a recording contract with a local record company called Studio 16, (sister company of Joe Gibbs records at the time). The song was recorded and within weeks of its release went straight to the Number 1 position in the local reggae charts and all the popular reggae stations across Britain.

The British leading reggae diva burst into the limelight as one of the youngest singers ever to have a No.1 reggae single. 'I Adore You' remained at the top of the charts for 4 weeks. Following this success Love & Unity had 3 more top hits before the duo split two years later. Although she involved herself in small projects as a solo singer for a short while, she waited patiently for the right time to again enter the music world with another stunning surge of talent, amazement and awe. It was an introduction by her younger brother in 1983 when she met The Mad Professor, who had just started a record company called Ariwa Records. In 1985 Sandra's first solo recording with Ariwa records was released (a rendition of the Stylistics 'Country Living'.) Exactly two weeks after its release 'Country Living' went straight to the No.1 spot in the British Reggae Charts and remained there for a staggering 10 weeks!

Her two following singles 'You're Lying' and 'It's You' repeated the success by reaching the number one spots in all the Reggae charts and radio stations across Britain. She was voted Britain's Best Female Reggae singer consecutively for six years from 1986 to 1991 by the listeners of the BBC (British Broadcasting

Corporation), and countless radio stations and music organizations all over the world. Upon this success she released over 20 albums and singles which were followed by headlined tours throughout Europe, America and Japan.

In 1996 her patience paid off when her long time friend and Pioneer executive Koichi Hanafusa- persuaded Sandra to record an album strictly for the Japanese release. The album entitled “Just a Dream” was released in 1991 on the Pioneer label. Sandra did two successful tours upon the success of “Just a Dream”, which was greatly received!

During a break from the music business Sandra moved with her family to Barbados in 1992 and tried to settle. As well as giving time to her personal commitments, she also gave time to spiritual meditation and study of the music business, its aims, and it’s ever changing patterns. Through those years she was also faced many times with the temptation to just give up totally and retire from the Industry. However, each time she made the decision a voice beseeched her ‘to be patient....and to just watch....and wait’. Whilst she did this great adoration, respect and inspiration grew for the reggae music industry.

It was the summer of 2005 whilst he was visiting Barbados that Lloyd Campbell of Joe Fraser Records gave Sandra a call. They got together and recorded two tracks for his ‘Loving Pauper meets Hypocrite’ various artists project. Three years later the smash song ‘Someone Special’ (her version to Taurus Riley’s ‘She’s Royal’) was released on the Joe Fraser record label.

Sandra also teamed up with Skinnybwoy Records artist Sadiki in 2008 to record the ‘True Singers’ duet album set for international release in September 2008 in Japan.

Sandra’s performance is nothing but unbelievable. She is more than deserving of the international acclaim she has garnered, and again, is ready to make another mark in the reggae industry as the stellar performer that she is.

## **EVENTS ORGANISED BY:**

Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project

BME Staff Support Group, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust

Communities United to Serve Humanity (CUSH)

Equality & Diversity Service, University of Wolverhampton

Gazebo Theatre in Education Company

Graiseley Primary School

Jamaica 2K/Learning Links International

Light House

University of Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton Arts & Heritage Service

Wolverhampton Citywide BME Council

Wolverhampton Libraries

Lorna Allen

## Discovery of Timbuktu Manuscripts

### Greatest find since dead-sea scrolls - On the Verge of being Lost

We are writing to ask that you support our PRESERVE-A-MANUSCRIPT CAMPAIGN to help save our endangered legacy. The goal of the PRESERVE-A-MANUSCRIPT CAMPAIGN is to rewrite the history of Africa and its people. This is of a great significance particularly since many western scholars often dismiss the African continent as lacking written records which is one of the distinguishing characteristic of civilization. In the 60's, H. Trevor a noted historian wrote that "perhaps is the future, there will be some African history to teach. But at the present there is none: there is only the history of Europeans in Africa. The rest is darkness."

### How Can you Help Save The Endangered Manuscripts Of Timbuktu?

Those of you who care and appreciate an African legacy, an academic legacy, an Islamic legacy and spiritual legacy, can help save the endangered manuscripts of Timbuktu. There are 700,000 manuscripts in Timbuktu and its surroundings that are on the **verge of being lost if the appropriate action is not taken**. These manuscripts represent a turning point in the history of Africa and its people. During the 14th century, Timbuktu flourished as the greatest academic and commercial centre in Africa **even before the European Renaissance**. The translation and publication of the manuscripts of Timbuktu will restore self-respect, pride, honour and dignity to the people from Africa and those descended from Africa; it will also obliterate the stereotypical images of Tarzan and primitive savages as true representation of Africa and its civilization.

The books of Timbuktu cover diverse subjects such as mathematics, chemistry, physics, optics, astronomy, medicine, Islamic Sciences, history, geography, the traditions of the Prophet, government legislation and treaties, jurisprudence and much more.

### Today, this entire African intellectual legacy is on the verge of being lost!!!

The brittle condition of the manuscripts, i.e., the pages disintegrate easily like ashes, the termites, insects, weather, piracy of the manuscripts, and selling of these treasures to tourist for food money pose a serious threat to the future of the manuscripts of Timbuktu.

**TIMBUKTU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, the legal custodian and caretaker of the manuscript, urges you to act today, at this very moment by sponsoring at least one manuscript.** Based on the 700,000 volumes the foundation wants to restore, preserve, translate and publish, we estimate that if 700,000 concerned people sponsor each a manuscript for \$100.00 we will secure the amount needed to allow the Foundation to undertake its activities and programs; thus rewrite the history of Africa and its people. **NO CONTRIBUTION IS TOO SMALL.**

Please take the initiative to save at least one manuscripts by mailing your tax-deductible offering to:

**Timbuktu Educational Foundation  
P.O. Box 222 • Alameda, CA 94501**

or visit our website at [www.timbuktufoundation.org](http://www.timbuktufoundation.org).  
We thank you for your important contribution

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## **Windrush Day: a public holiday to celebrate multicultural Britain**

As we, in the UK, approach the Olympic Games in 2012, I believe that we need to have a public holiday to commemorate and celebrate the contributions of Black, Asian and other minority communities who have made a major contribution to Britain over the last 60 years. It would also remind us all that Britain has been and will always be a nation of migration and cultural diversity and we should embrace this in positive way.

We could choose the day when the MV Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury in 1948, 22 June as the public holiday. This is arguably the most powerful and iconic symbol of migration and the rise of modern day multicultural Britain. The Windrush is not simply about the 492 Caribbean men and women that arrived

in Britain on that ship but everyone who came from the Empire who were British subjects and saw Britain as their Mother Country.

The seeds of modern migration were sown in the former colonies of the British Empire with countries from Africa, Caribbean, Mediterranean, South East Asia, and Oceania with over 2.5 million service men and women who, volunteered during World War II to fight fascism.

One of the obvious objections to such a Windrush Day might be that this would fall into the hands of the BNP and their sympathisers who are now joined by a growing number of 'worried well' concerned about multicultural Britain,



in creating diversity and further alienating some members of the white working class.

A Windrush Day is important if we want a tolerant, respectful society especially if we want to tackle all forms of political extremism and terrorism.

The Windrush Generation is now disappearing as many of these pioneers pass away, suffering from long term health conditions or languish in residential or nursing homes, although some have immigrated back to their countries of birth.

Many of those born between 1910-1940 may not be around at the next Windrush celebrations in . The question we need to ask ourselves is why wait 10 years to celebrate this achievement.

We will regret as a country if we fail to take individual and collective responsibility for systematically documenting their history and contribution to Britain and beyond, as a legacy for young people of all ethnicities and nationalities.

The government and the public should undertake the following activities in time for the 2012 Olympics which were won for London on the strength of our cultural diversity.

1. Promote the idea of a national public holiday based on the contribution of immigrants to Britain from the Windrush era onwards in the creation of multi cultural Britain.
2. develop a national oral history programme to fund community organisations, schools, to record and document the Windrush Generation and their contributions to Britain.
3. Take immediate action to stop fascists and racists demonising and stereotyping the contribution that Black, Asian and minority ethnic people make to multicultural Britain.

[www.gopetition.com/petitions/charmed-life-campaign.html](http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/charmed-life-campaign.html)

## Patrick Vernon

Founder of Every Generation Media and creator of 100 Great Black Britons  
[www.100greatblackbritons.com](http://www.100greatblackbritons.com)  
Producer and co Director A Charmed Life film about the life of war veteran Eddie Noble and the legacy of the Windrush Generation.

Further details  
[charmedlifecampaign.wordpress.com/documentary/](http://charmedlifecampaign.wordpress.com/documentary/)

Further details contact  
Every Generation Media  
E: [egeninfo@tgjs.co.uk](mailto:egeninfo@tgjs.co.uk)  
T: 0845 260 5565 or  
M: 07976 731 539



# BHM Calendar

## OCTOBER

<b>1st,</b>	1917	E.J. Scott appointed Special Assistant to the Secretary of War, USA.
	1960	Independence Day, Nigeria.
<b>2nd,</b>	1863	Alexander T. Augusta – one of the first Black doctors in the US Civil War, born.
	1958	Independence Day, Guinea.
<b>3rd,</b>	1949	WERD, a pioneer Black radio station commenced broadcasting.
	1956	Nat King Cole becomes first Black person to host own television programme.
<b>4th,</b>	1864	New Orleans Tribune, a Black daily newspaper began publication.
	1966	Independence Day, Lesotho
<b>5th,</b>	1897	J.H. Evans patented convertible settee-bed.
	1992	Eddie Kendricks (Soul Singer) died.
<b>6th,</b>	1871	Fisk Jubilee Singers began first tour in USA.
<b>7th,</b>	1890	H. Reynolds (Inventor) awarded patent for a safety gate for bridges.
<b>8th,</b>	1804	Jena Jacques I proclaimed Emperor of Haiti
	1882	Dr. Harold Moody (Political Activist) born in Kingston, Jamaica.
	1941	Jesse Jackson (Politician) born, USA.
<b>9th,</b>	1869	Morgan State College opened, USA.
	1962	Independence Day, Uganda.
<b>10th,</b>	1899	I. Johnson (Inventor) awarded patent for a bicycle frame.
	1966	Black Panther Party emerges in Oakland, CA (led by Huey Newton & Bobby Seale).

<b>11th.</b>	1865 1964	The Morant Bay Rebellion took place in Jamaica. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. awarded Nobel Peace Prize.
<b>12th,</b>	2002	Stephen Bantu Biko brutally murdered by South African government.
<b>13th,</b>	1966 1970	John Regis (Athlete) born. Angela Davis captured by FBI agents in NY motel.
<b>14th,</b>	1834  1974 1978	Henry Blair (Inventor) awarded a patent for a seed-planting invention.  LeRoy T. Walker named Black Olympic coach for USA. Usher (R'n'B Singer) born.
<b>15th,</b>	1972	Jackie Robinson honoured at Cincinnati Stadium.
<b>16th,</b>	1859 1909	John Brown led attack on Harper's Ferry. Jack Johnson delivered the hardest punch ever recorded in boxing history. It occurred in a fight against middleweight Stanley Ketchel who is also credited as being one of the hardest hitters in boxing history.
<b>17th,</b>	1956 1968  1972	Dr. Mae Jemison (Chemical Engineer/Astronaut) born, U.S.A Ziggy Marley (Reggae Singer) born. John Carlos & Tommie Smith gave Black Power salute at medals ceremony in the 200 metres event at the Mexico City Olympics Wyclef Jean (Singer) born.
<b>18th,</b>	1926 1962 1977	Chuck Berry (Rock 'n' Roll Musician) born in St Louis, USA. Evander Holyfield (Boxer) born. Reggie Jackson, New York, hit 3 home runs in World Series.
<b>19th,</b>	1943	"Othello" opened with Paul Robeson in title role.
<b>20th,</b>	1946	W.E.B. DuBois' speech, "Behold The Lord".
<b>21st,</b>	1850  1967	Chicago refused to enforce Fugitive Slave Act 1850 Dizzy Gillespie (Jazz musician) born. Paul Ince (Footballer and Manager) born.

<b>22nd,</b>	1854	James Bland (Composer) born.
	1952	Frank E. Peterson, JR. commissioned as Marine Aviation Officer.
	1966	Shaggy (Reggae Singer) born.
<b>23rd,</b>	1940	Edson Arantes do Nascimento (Pelé) born, Brazil
	1947	NAACP petitioned U.N. on racial injustices.
<b>24th,</b>	1865	George William Gordon executed by the British. Paul Bogle hanged by the British in Jamaica.
	1964	Independence Day, Zambia.
	1972	Death of Jackie Robinson.
<b>25th,</b>	1806	Benjamin Banneker (Mathematician/Inventor) born.
	1945	Jackie Robinson signed by Branch Rickey.
<b>26th,</b>	1911	Mahalia Jackson (Gospel singer) born.
	1921	Solomon P. Hood named Minister to Liberia.
<b>27th,</b>	1891	P. Downing (Inventor) awarded patent for a post box.
	1954	Benjamin O. Davis became 1st Black general in U.S. Air Force.
	1979	Independence Day, St Vincent and the Grenadines.
<b>28th,</b>	1972	Jackie Robinson biography published.
<b>29th,</b>	1974	Muhammad Ali vs. George Foreman.
<b>30th,</b>	1962	Courtney Walsh (Cricketer) born.
<b>31st,</b>	1945	Booker T. Washington entered Hall of Fame for Great Americans.

