



Royal
Russell

LIBRARY

***THINGS TO SEE
AND DO ...***

**BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**

OCTOBER 2020

**Open all minds
Open all dreams
Research. Question.
Open all doors
Open all senses
Open all defences
Ask, what were these
closed for?**

**From : Inspire and Be Inspired
by Lemm Sissay**

PLACES TO VISIT

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/page/b/black-heritage/>



The V&A holds a variety of material relating to black heritage and culture, including fashion, photography and performance. Current highlights include :



Staying Power - photographs of Black British experience 1950-1990 to increase the number of black British photographers and images of black Britain in the V&A collection

Africans in Art - The V&A collections include many representations of African people in a variety of media, ranging from painted portraits, prints and photographs to images in illuminated manuscripts, stained glass and heraldic devices, as well as material relating to the slave trade and abolitionism.



SOAS University of London is celebrating Black History Month with a varied programme of talks, concerts, film screenings, and exhibitions including:



African Textiles

African Textiles from the Karun Thakar Collection is an exhibition of one of the world's largest private collections of African textiles. The exhibition will include over 150 examples of textiles from Morocco, Tunisia, Ivory Coast, Mali, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana and Cameroon, and aims to examine the links between west and north African textile traditions.

Venue: Brunei Gallery, SOAS

Date: 11 October to 14 December

Time: 10:30AM to 5:00PM



The Soul of East Africa

The Soul of East Africa is part of the SOAS Concert Series organised by the Department of Music at SOAS.

The concert will feature the Ugandan singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Seby Ntege, who is a renowned master of many folkloric instruments, including the akoko thumb piano, endongo lyre, adungu harp and the one-stringed fiddle called endingidi.

Venue: Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS

Date: 18 October

Time: 8:00PM to 10:00PM



MUSEUM OF LONDON DOCKLANDS

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands/permanent-galleries/london-sugar-slavery>

London, Sugar & Slavery 1600 – today

Discover how the trade in enslaved Africans and sugar shaped London. The museum's building is central to this story. It was built at the time of the transatlantic slave trade, to store the sugar from the West Indian plantations where enslaved men, women and children worked.



The Krios of Sierra Leone

A new display exploring the unique and largely untold history, heritage and culture of the Krio people of Sierra Leone. Entry to this display is included with a free general admission ticket to the museum until 14 March 2021. The Krios of Sierra Leone includes contemporary objects from the

collections of Krio Londoners as well as 19th century objects related to British colonial rule in Sierra Leone from the museum's collections. Together, this will highlight the diversity of cultures brought to Sierra Leone that became uniquely Krio.

Windrush Stories

72 years ago, the ship Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Docks, Essex and changed London forever. From never-heard-before oral histories to articles exploring the museum's extensive photography collection, the specially curated selection of content explores the history of the Afro-Caribbean community in London.





BLACK CULTURAL ARCHIVES
<https://blackculturalarchives.org/>

Black Cultural Archives is the home of Black British History with a mission to collect, preserve and celebrate the histories of people of African and Caribbean descent in the UK and to inspire and give strength to individuals, communities and society. BCA run a series of gallery exhibitions, educational programmes and public engagement events and provide free access to their unique set of archives, museum objects and reference library.

Located in Windrush Square, BCA have become the leading non-governmental and heritage institutional voice for the Windrush Generation and is part of the Windrush Action Group and the Windrush National Organising Committee.

Steeped in history, 1 Windrush Square is a place of monument: named after the SS Empire Windrush which docked in Tilbury in 1948 carrying her passengers on their pioneering journey from the Caribbean to Britain.

Current exhibitions include:



Stories of Black Leadership II: Breaking Barriers

Following the success of *Radiating Greatness* in 2019, BCA is proud to unveil *Breaking Barriers*, the second chapter of a three-year project to make visible the journeys of pioneering Black British women who have overcome adversity to take their rightful seat at the table. Dame Linda Dobbs DBE, Baroness

Doreen Lawrence OBE, Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE, Margaret Casely-Hayford CBE and Shirley Thompson OBE have shared their personal experiences not only to demonstrate the excellence present in Britain's Black community but to show others what can be achieved.

The Africa Galleries reveal the extraordinary cultural, artistic and historical diversity and complexity of the continent represented by the collections. The galleries present varied material and artistic traditions, including forged metalwork, textiles, pottery-making, masquerade and sculpture. Cross-cutting the displays, the galleries approach a range of wider themes, including trade, identity, gender, power, religion and transformation.

The inclusion of contemporary art throughout the galleries highlights the continuing vibrancy and relevance of art in and about Africa, both by artists living on the continent and those of African heritage working outside it. Among the contemporary art works represented there is a particular focus on artworks inspired or informed by earlier creative traditions.

Items on display currently include :



Tree of Life
Made by artists from Mozambique, 2004

At over 3.5m (11.5ft) in height, this large sculptural tree was made from decommissioned firearms from Mozambique's 17-year civil war. The Tree of Life was created specifically for the British Museum by artists in Mozambique in 2004. The artwork is made from weapons collected by the Transforming Arms into Tools project, which employed former child soldiers in Mozambique to dismantle guns. The weapon parts were swapped locally for farming tools, sewing machines, bicycles and building materials. This is one of a number of artworks in the gallery reflecting the vibrant and dynamic contemporary arts scene in Africa.



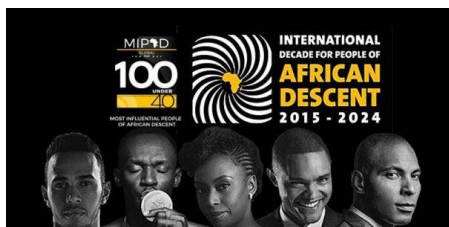
BLACK HISTORY WALKS
<https://blackhistorywalks.co.uk/>

Black History Walks are dedicated to providing authentic, stimulating and engaging walking tours that help to educate people from all walks of life about London's Black History.

The dedicated Black History Walks team, has been delivering some of the best London walking tours for over 13 years. The team involves management consultants, diversity experts, authors, academics and has lectured at some of London's most impressive venues, including the National Portrait Gallery and the British Film Institute.

There are 12 walking tours of London to choose from. Each area has been carefully selected for its importance in Black History. Expert tour guides will help participants to uncover the 3,500 years of Black History in London through interactive discussion and exceptional educational experiences.

Upcoming walks include:



Clapham Common Walk 4th October - 11am

Due to interest generated from recent events and the United Nations International Decade of People of African Descent, there is another opportunity to take part in this special walk around Clapham Common to expose the African resistance, presence and history in the area. There are also many homes and establishments literally built from the profits of slavery. This walk features:

- The African Academy, an all black school in the 1800's
- Black Freedom fighters and the Sierra Leone connection
- African aristocracy in 1800's London
- Jamaican Maroons and African-Canadians
- How enslaved Africans helped poor English people
- Barclays, Hibbert and other estates built with West Indian money and more

ONLINE RESOURCES

UCL : INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION LIBGUIDES BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITY ETHNIC (BAME) EDUCATION RESOURCES: UK BLACK HISTORY RESOURCES

<https://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/c.php?g=482452&p=3298646>



This guide seeks to be an inclusive hub for information relating to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in the UK with reference to education. The guide also provides a snapshot of the range of international resources available for a study of BAME experiences. The site contains links to Black History resources, resources within London and UCL/Institute of Education library resources.

BBC : WITNESS BLACK HISTORY PODCASTS

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01h9dl0/episodes/downloads>



A series of interviews with people who were there at key moments in black and civil rights history including :

The first black woman MP in Britain – the story of Diane Abbot's election to Parliament

Black GIs during World War II – how soldiers who had been relegated to support roles were asked to volunteer for combat

The last survivor of the transatlantic slave trade - a woman who died in Alabama in 1940 had been captured in West Africa as a child, and sold into slavery in the USA

FILMS TO WATCH



To Kill a Mockingbird (PG)

This timeless film stars acting great Gregory Peck and is based on Harper Lee's 1960 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name. Peck stars as Atticus Finch, father of the film's narrator, Scout. Atticus defends a black man, Tom Robinson, after he's accused of raping a white girl, Mayella Ewell. The accusation and

trail turn the Finch's small Depression-era Alabama town upside down. The film won three Academy Awards.



Hidden Figures (PG)

The story of African-American women who served as human computers and made other vital contributions to NASA during the '50s and '60s that helped launched the unmanned space flight program. For ages 10 and older.



Selma (12)

A critically acclaimed historical drama, Selma chronicles the Selma to Montgomery marches led by Civil Rights activists such as Martin Luther King, Jr. The marches, held over a period of 18 days, aimed to secure equal voting rights and were met with violent resistance from local law enforcement and

possemen. They contributed to passage of the Voting Rights Act, considered a watershed moment in U.S. history.



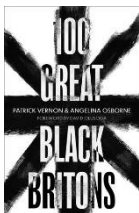
Mandela : Long Walk to Freedom (12)

Nelson Mandela's release from prison in 1990 was celebrated around the world, as South Africa finally ended its system of apartheid, which had denied black citizens the most basic civil rights. By the time of his death, Nelson Mandela was universally adored and respected,

and stood as an icon for peace. This film, however, recalls a time when Mandela was labelled a dangerous terrorist and jailed for sabotage, and follows his incredible, inspirational story through to his incarceration and triumphant release.

100 Great Black Britons Competition

<https://www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk/competition.html>



To accompany the book : “100 Great Black Britons” published at the end of September, the 100 Great Black Britons campaign includes a Children and Young people competition, sponsored by NEU. Participants are asked to create a unique project celebrating Black Britons and their legacy. Open to all age groups, it is a fantastic way to explore Black British History and multicultural Britain.

TED Talks

https://www.ted.com/playlists/230/10_great_talks_to_celebrate_bi

TED Ideas worth spreading



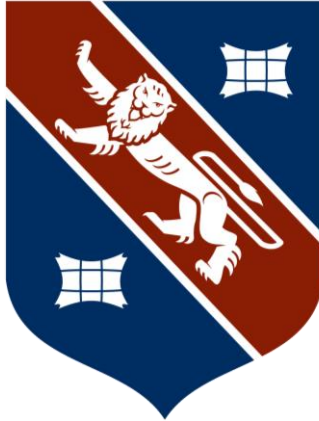
TED is a global community, welcoming people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world, believing passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world. This carefully selected playlist offers insightful talks that offer fresh, thoughtful perspectives on Black identity.

Fiction reading list

<https://royalrussell.fireflycloud.net/library/reading-lists>



The Library has also put together a Black History Month reading list which can be found on the Library's Firefly Reading Lists page



Patron : Her Majesty the Queen
www.royalrussell.co.uk

