



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

OCTOBER 2014

Exploring the heritage
and history of
Southwark's African,
Caribbean and Diaspora
communities

FOREWORD

Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle

Cabinet member for adult care, arts and culture



Welcome to the exciting and varied programme of events that is part of Southwark's contribution to Black History Month in the UK.

This is an opportunity to celebrate and raise awareness of black cultural heritage, history and experiences today, no matter who you are or where you live in the borough.

The main theme for this year is Living the Legacy: Honouring the first generation of migrants from the Caribbean and Africa. These early migrants did so much for our country and paved the way for their children and subsequent generations to make enormous contributions to Britain in the 21st century.

Planned events include music, dance, cultural film screenings, story telling, historical walks and talks as well as exhibitions. In this hundred year anniversary of the start of World War One, the contribution and experiences of black service personnel will be recognised by several events.

Southwark libraries will organise a wide mix of events suitable for all ages, from babies to adults. At their baby and toddler sessions stories from traditional African culture will be told, while Cathy Tyson and Jack Tyson-Charles will host an evening of poems, short stories, prose and music at Canada Water Culture Space for adults.

Black History Month is for everybody and all events are free or low cost, so please get involved and get inspired.



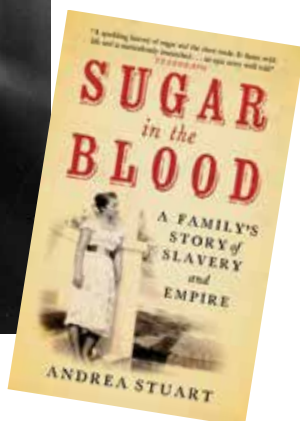
This year's Black History Month programme has been coordinated by Southwark Council's community engagement team.

For more information on Black History Month or to download a copy of this brochure, visit www.southwark.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth



Exclusive interview with author

ANDREA STUART



Andrea Stuart will
be talking about
Sugar in the Blood, at
Canada Water Library
on Wednesday 29
October, 7pm.

Andrea Stuart was born and raised in the Caribbean and US. Her first book, *Showgirls*, was adapted into a two-part documentary for the Discovery Channel and her second book, *The Rose of Martinique: A Biography of Napoleon's Josephine*, won the Enid McLeod Literary Prize in 2004. Her third book, *Sugar in the Blood*, sees Andrea going back to 1630 to follow the thread of her own family's involvement with the sugar trade through successive generations. The Independent said, "Stuart fashions a rich family memoir that also serves as a vivid history of Caribbean slavery, and a moving account of migration." The Telegraph said, "In her new book... you can almost taste 'the cloying scent of burnt sugar' from her grandfather's plantation. With both slaves and whites popping up in her family tree, the taste is bittersweet."

When did you decide you wanted to be a writer?

I don't think I ever actively decided to be a writer. But I was always a very passionate reader and this led to me sort of side stepping into writing; first as a journalist, and then as an academic. Then I realised that I wanted to work on longer projects and I began to write full length books.

What were/are your inspirations?

My literary inspirations are really diverse. In truth, as a young person I read everything. My brother's cowboy books, comics, magazines. I really loved whodunnits like Agatha

Christie, and I raided my parents' very large library for anything that looked interesting. As a result I got the chance to read all the classics: George Eliot, Trollope, and Russian writers like Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy. But it was when I began to seek out other black writers from Ralph Ellison to Toni Morrison that I really got a sense that this was something I could do.

What inspired you to write *Sugar in the Blood*?

I always wanted to write about my maternal family; largely thanks to my Uncle Trevor who was a real raconteur. He told me wonderful

stories about my family's plantation background, replete with hilarious anecdotes about local characters and tragic, dramatic family members. But in the context of writing the book, it took me a long time to really intuit what the wider story was; that is, that my family was typical of millions of others who were shaped by the epic forces of sugar production, slavery and colonial settlement. Once I realised this, I knew how I wanted to proceed, that I wanted to intertwine my family's very intimate, very particular narrative with the wider story of how the sugar trade evolved in the Americas.

Was it difficult to come to terms with the fact that you are descended both from slaves and from slave owners?

Initially the realisation that my white planter ancestor had no compunction about enslaving his own offspring was shocking. But once I understand how warped the mores of the slave system were, I began to understand. Plantation life was a kind of intimate terrorism, where oppressor and oppressed lived cheek by jowl; where the exploitation of slave women was endemic and the children they bore were seen merely as an extension of the planters' 'human property'. I understood that my family's story was shared by many, and that Atlantic slavery debased and corrupted slave owners as much as it did slaves.

What book are you reading right now?

Right now I am re-reading Moll Flanders, because I'm trying to write historical fiction.

Who would play you in a film of your life?

Angela Bassett. Though she is much more attractive!

What one book do you wish that you had written?

Beloved by Toni Morrison.

Has there been any particular praise or criticism that has stuck with you?

Like a lot of writers I tend to hold on to the negative stuff, but it is the really thoughtful reviews that I learn the most from, like one I received from the New York Review of Books.

What advice do you have for someone who would like to become a published writer?

I think anyone who wants to be a writer needs to be very determined. It is a hard world to crack. But never give up. And be patient. They say that it takes 10,000 hours to become an expert at something. So being a writer takes time. Also it is important to stay faithful to your vision. In the end only you know what is best for your book.

Do you hear from your readers much? What kinds of things do they say?

I do hear from readers and it is one of the blessings of a lonely job. In the main they are very kind and explain how much my books have moved and educated them. Their feedback is often really useful to me as a writer; providing a new perspective on my work and encouraging me to carry on.

What does Black History Month mean to you?

I am passionate about Black History Month but my goal is to make it obsolete. In most cases the topics we describe as black history are an intrinsic part of British history and we need to integrate them into the wider educational and cultural framework.



Music, stories and rhymes with Winston Nzinga

Winston Nzinga takes you on a magical journey with rhythmic drum beats and tales from around the world. Get involved playing drums, singing and experiencing Winston's memorable stories. An event for all the family to enjoy. For all ages and families.

Date and venue: 4 October at Peckham Library; 18 October at Canada Water Library; 28 October at Blue Anchor Library.

Time: 2pm

Contact: southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk
www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

EVENTS LISTINGS

All events
are free
unless stated
otherwise

2 TO 16 OCTOBER

Soul, words and food: CoolTan Arts' black history celebration

Learn about African and Caribbean heritage by taking part in cooking and poetry workshops, prepare delicious food, share stories about family, history and culture.

Time: Storytelling and cooking workshops from 10am to 3pm on 2, 7, 9 and 14 October. Open day with poetry workshop, performance and food from 4pm to 8pm on 16 October.

Venue: CoolTan Arts, Third Floor, 224–236 Walworth Road, SE17 1JE

Contact: 020 7701 2696

olivia@cooltanarts.org.uk

www.cooltanarts.org.uk

3 OCTOBER

Eli Anderson: The Power of the Elder

"Stories are our global heritage, through which cultural and social capital are given life." Storyteller, poet and narrative coach Eli Anderson will be talking about The Power of the elder and focusing on who are elders? Why are elders essential to our community? He will demonstrate how eldership is critical to the "passing on" of social and cultural capital, and maintaining communities and family structures. For adults.

Time: 11am

Venue: Peckham Library, 122 Peckham Hill Street, SE15 5JR

Contact:

southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk
www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

5 TO 26 OCTOBER

Cossall's Black History Month 2014 showcase

A celebration of Black History Month with sessions and exhibitions taking place every Sunday in October.

Dates: Sundays, 5, 12, 19 and 26 October

Time: 4.30pm to 8.30pm

Venue: 48 Mortlock Close, Cossall Estate, Peckham, SE15 2QE

Contact: cossalltra@yahoo.co.uk

07538 686 986

www.facebook.com/

CossallTenantsAndResidentsAssociation

5, 12 AND 19 OCTOBER

Grosvenor Estate Black History Month film festival

The Grosvenor Estate celebrates Black History Month 2014 with film screenings of contemporary, diverse and heritage black cultural films.

Time: Sundays 5pm to 7.30pm

Venue: Grosvenor tenants and residents' association house, 41 Grosvenor Park, Camberwell, SE5 0NH

Contact:

grosvenorestatese5@hotmail.co.uk
to reserve seats

6 AND 20 OCTOBER

Baby and toddler session

Friendly session for under fives featuring the story, Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne. For under fives and parents/carers.

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Camberwell Library, 17–21 Camberwell Church Street, SE5 8TR

Contact:

Visit www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries or email southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk for details of more baby and toddler sessions at other Southwark libraries.

7 OCTOBER

Dream Variations: Inspirational black poetry

Acclaimed storyteller Sandra Agard will perform and discuss inspirational poems from some of the world's greatest black writers. Poems from Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, Ben Okri, Audre Lorde, Derek Walcott and many more will be featured. For adults.

Time: 11am

Venue: Blue Anchor Library, Market Place, Southwark Park Road, SE16 3UQ

Contact:

southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk

www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

Baby rhyme time

Sing rhymes with an African Caribbean flavour. For under fives and parents/carers.

Time: 2pm

Venue: Canada Water Library, 21 Surrey Quays Road, SE16 7AR

Contact:

Visit www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries or email southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk for details of more baby rhyme time sessions at other Southwark libraries

7 TO 28 OCTOBER

Kingswood Community Shop – Black History Journey

Take part in IT workshops, black history walks and a topical discussion focusing on the history and personal experiences of Caribbean and African people migrating to the UK in the 1950s and 1960s.

Time: IT classes 1pm to 3pm on Tuesday 7 and Thursday 9 October; walking trips 10am to 3pm on Thursdays 14 and 21 October; personal journey topical discussion 12pm to 3pm on Tuesday 28 October

Venue: The Kingswood Community Shop, 37–38 Seeley Drive, SE21 8QR

Contact: Rebeccakcs@cpcdt.org.uk
020 3670 1578, www.cpcdt.org.uk

8 OCTOBER

Sounds like London: 100 years of black music in the capital

Sandra Agard chairs a discussion on 100 years of black music in London, with music historians Lloyd Bradley and Dr. William 'Lez' Henry. Black music has been part of London's landscape since the First World War, when the Southern Syncopated Orchestra brought jazz to the capital. Following the wave of Commonwealth immigration, its sounds and styles took up residence to become the foundation of the city's youth culture. For adults.

Time: 7pm

Venue: Peckham Library,

122 Peckham Hill Street, SE15 5JR

Cost: Free, but advance booking is essential via

southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk

Contact:

southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk

www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

9 OCTOBER

Black Londoners and the London Metropolitan Archive: A talk by Maureen Roberts

This illustrated talk will show how the black presence in London can be traced back to the Tudor period and before, using a range of London Metropolitan Archive resources. Maureen Roberts is a senior interpretation officer at London Metropolitan Archives, a trustee of Black Cultural Archives and a member of the African Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars. Maureen is also a poet and lecturer in creative writing. For adults. No need to book in advance but please arrive early to guarantee your place.

Time: 7pm

Venue: John Harvard Library,

211 Borough High Street, SE1 1JA

Contact:

southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk

www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

9 OCTOBER TO 9 NOVEMBER

How Nigeria became: A Story, and a Spear that Didn't Work

Written and directed by British Nigerian playwright Gbolahan Obisesan, *How Nigeria Became: A Story, and a Spear that Didn't Work*, commemorates the centenary of Nigeria as part of Black History Month at the Unicorn. For ages eight and over.

Time: Times vary; 10.30am, 11am, 1.30pm, 2pm, 5pm

Venue: Unicorn Theatre, 147 Tooley Street, SE1 2HZ

Cost: £10 (under 21s), £13 (concessions), £16 (adults). Multi buy and family discounts available.

Contact: To book tickets visit

www.unicorntheatre.com,

call 020 7645 0560,

email boxoffice@unicorntheatre.com or visit the Unicorn Theatre box office in person.

9 AND 16 OCTOBER

Cuming Museum explorers

Celebrate Black History Month with an African dance session for children under five years old and their parents and carers. In association with Victory School Children's Centre.

Time: 10am to 11.15am

Venue: InSpire, The Crypt at St Peter's, Liverpool Grove, off Walworth Road, SE17 2HH

Contact: 020 7525 2332

www.southwark.gov.uk/cumingmuseum

10 OCTOBER

Acknowledging the Legacies of our Past Generations: Celebrating early Krios from Sierra Leone

Celebrating the unique history and heritage of Britain's 19th and 20th century Sierra Leonean Krios and acknowledging their legacies in education, medicine, the military and race relations through presentations, discussion, performance, stalls and a quiz.

Time: 6.30pm to 10.30pm

Venue: The Crypt, St Peter's Church, Liverpool Grove, SE17 2HH

Contact: secretary@kdulondon.org.uk

www.kdulondon.org.uk

11 OCTOBER

Pentecostal Church of God Trinity

This event showcases the contribution of African and Afro-Caribbean communities over the years and how their cultures have been integrated into British culture.

Time: 1pm to 5pm

Venue: 10a Meeting House Lane, Peckham, SE15 2UN

Contact: slywitter@aol.com

slywitter@yahoo.co.uk

07957 648 069 or 07943 561 343

10 TO 25 OCTOBER

Southside Young Leaders' Academy

A series of workshops and celebratory events that explore the three key phases of black British history: up to the 1960s, up to the 1990s and up to the present day.

Time: 5.30pm to 7.30pm on Fridays;

10am to 2pm on Saturdays

Venue: Jessie Duffett Hall and Hollington Youth Centre, 56-60 Comber Grove, Camberwell, SE5 0LD

Contact: Info@syla.org.uk

020 7701 9055

www.syla.org.uk

12 AND 19 OCTOBER

Black Poppies

Southwark historian Stephen Bourne presents an illustrated talk about his latest book, *Black Poppies*. Published by The History Press to coincide with this year's centenary of the First World War, *Black Poppies* explores the military and civilian wartime experience of black Britons, and the loyalty they held for their mother country, both on the front line and the home front.

Time: 2pm

Venue: Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HZ

Contact: www.iwm.org.uk

All events
are free
unless stated
otherwise

12 OCTOBER

British black history walk and re-enactment

The walk and historical re-enactment event will span 300 years. You will encounter characters, including Marcus Garvey, who lived or frequented the area and will explore themes such as religion, education and nursing.

Time: 12pm and 3pm

Venue: Start point: St George

The Martyr, Borough High Street, SE1 1JA

Contact: 07789 552 450

www.newelephantopennetwork.wordpress.com

13 OCTOBER

The Story of Lover's Rock: Film screening and director Q&A

Lover's rock, often dubbed romantic reggae, is a uniquely black British sound that developed in the late 70s and 80s against a backdrop of riots, racial tension and sound systems. In this film, live performance, comedy sketches, dance, interviews and archive footage shed light on the music and the generation that embraced it. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Menelik Shabazz, who has previously directed work for ITV, BBC and Channel 4. For adults. No need to book in advance but please arrive early to guarantee your place.

Time: 7pm

Venue: Dulwich Library,
368 Lordship Lane, SE22 8NB

Contact:

southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk

www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

14 OCTOBER

Jambo Jamboree

Storyteller Edward Fatunla will entertain your baby with stories, rhymes and songs. For under fives and parents/carers.

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Peckham Library,

122 Peckham Hill Street, SE15 5JR

Contact:

southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk

www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

16 OCTOBER

Rhymes, songs and dance with an African, Caribbean flavour

Musician Trevor Westcarr will entertain children with a mixture of rhymes and songs. For under fives and parents/carers.

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Dulwich Library,

368 Lordship Lane, SE22 8NB

Contact:

southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk

www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

17 OCTOBER

Elim House celebration

Featuring storytelling and family contributions of war and arrival to Britain by ex-service men, discussions on different generations, historical speakers, cultural displays, local school entertainment and much more.

Time: 11am

Venue: Elim House Day Centre, 86

Bellenden Road, Peckham, SE15 4RQ

Contact: 020 7639 8655

begs.elim@btconnect.com

18 OCTOBER

Ships looked like mountains... you don't know what it's like

A lively interactive performance for all the family using storytelling, music, art and film to explore a first generation's experiences of migrating to Britain from Africa and the Caribbean. Be inspired and inspire us with your stories. With a discussion afterwards.

Time: 3pm to 5pm

Venue: Kingswood House,

Seeley Drive, SE21 8QR

Contact: broker@pgtimebank.org

020 8670 0990

visit www.pgtimebank.org

21 OCTOBER

Maya Angelou: Warrior for equality, tolerance and peace. A talk by Sandra Agard

When Maya Angelou passed away earlier this year aged 86, her family released a statement describing her as a warrior for equality, tolerance and peace. These readings and talk by writer and storyteller Sandra Agard will show how these qualities shaped Angelou's life and work. For adults. Free, but advance booking is essential via southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk

Time: 7pm

Venue: Peckham Library,

122 Peckham Hill Street, SE15 5JR

Contact:

southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk

www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

25 OCTOBER

Southwark Story Telling

Southwark Story Telling is a one off event, bringing people in Southwark together during Black History Month to share their stories, write them down and perform them for each other.

Time: 3pm to 6pm

Venue: Cambridge House,

1 Addington Square, SE5 0HF

Contact: 020 7358 7000

www.ch1889.org

All events
are free
unless stated
otherwise

28 OCTOBER

Cathy Tyson and Jack Tyson-Charles: an evening of poetry, music and spoken word

Actress and writer Cathy Tyson will be talking about her life and reading poetry and prose inspired by her childhood. Cathy made an immediate impact in her film debut, starring alongside Bob Hoskins in Neil Jordan's *Mona Lisa* and also has many other film, TV and theatre credits to her name. Cathy is joined by her son Jack, a musician and singer who creatively blends and updates the vintage soul sound of his influences. Cathy's work, intermixed with Jack's songs will make for an intimate blend of poetry, music and spoken word. The evening will conclude with an audience Q&A. For adults. Free, but advance booking is essential via southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Canada Water Library, 21 Surrey Quays Road, SE16 7AR

Contact: southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk
www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

The Celebration of the life of Maya Angelou

An exhibition and open mic session celebrating the work of Maya Angelou and using spoken word to evaluate the struggles, issues and aspirations that she wrote and spoke about, against the struggles, issues and aspirations of young people in Southwark.

Time: 2pm to 5.30pm - exhibition;
6pm to 9pm - living the legacy open mic session; advance booking required for open mic session.

Venue: Wickway Community Centre, 245 St George's Way, Peckham, SE15 6PL

Contact: mmclarren@wickway.org.uk
020 7252 4514, www.wickway.org.uk

29 OCTOBER

Sugar in the Blood: A family's story of slavery and Empire. A talk by Andrea Stuart

Sugar in the Blood sees Andrea going back to 1630 to follow the thread of her own family's involvement with the sugar trade through successive generations, telling a story of insatiable greed and forbidden love, of abuse and liberation. Andrea's talk will be followed by an audience Q&A and book signing. For adults. Free, but advance booking is essential via southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk

Time: 7pm

Venue: Canada Water Library, 21 Surrey Quays Road, SE16 7AR

Contact: southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk
www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

29 TO 31 OCTOBER

Futebol Dance Theatre

This 35 minute performance depicts through movement, the first football arriving in Brazil from the UK and Afro-Brazilian attempts to join the team, in doing so redefining the game.

Times and venue: Various schools and public places in Southwark, visit the website for full details.

Contact: welighupthehouse@gmail.com
www.welighupthehouse.com

30 OCTOBER

Aaina Women's Group: black history

The event features the opening of an exhibition by BME women. There will be a discussion with the artists on their inspirations and how they created the pieces, as well as threading, henna and massage treatments, manicures, inspirational storytelling by women and a special stress management session. Refreshments will be available throughout the event.

Time: 10am to 1pm

Venue: Sojourner Truth Centre, 161 Sumner Road, SE15 6JL

Contact: aainawomen.wordpress.com
020 7358 0697
aainawomensgroup@gmail.com

31 OCTOBER

Past meets present

This is a community event where the young and senior people in the community will meet to look at black history from their point of view and the changes which have occurred over time.

Time: 7pm

Venue: Anapausis Centre, 272 Sumner Road, Peckham, SE15 5QS

Contact: Cec_team@msn.com
07956 423 792

Black history through music

An exploration of British black history through music from the Second World War to the present day; performed by year 7 students from University Academy of Engineering South Bank.

Time: 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Venue: University Academy of Engineering South Bank, Trafalgar Street, SE17 2TP

Contact: www.wesingusing.org.uk

Rage and Desires presents: Finding Home

A film documenting the lives of BME migrant, refugee and asylum seekers, *Finding Home* gives voice to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people who have made Southwark their home, offering striking role models for the future.

Time: 7pm to 9pm

Venue: Keyworth Building, Main Theatre, Keyworth Street, SE1 6NG

Contact: secretary@southwarklgbtnetwork.com
www.southwarklgbtnetwork.com
facebook.com/southwarklgbtnetwork