

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

OCTOBER 2017

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

Don't miss out
on this October's
amazing events!
Most events are
FREE unless stated
otherwise.

#BHM2017

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 facebook.com/southwarkcouncil

 @southwarkcouncil

Southwark
Council
southwark.gov.uk

Interview with

GENEALOGIST SHARON TOMLIN



Sharon Tomlin is a Genealogist and family historian. Here we talk to Sharon about the work she does and the impact that genealogy has on Black African and Caribbean communities across the world.

The work that Sharon does connects with hundreds of individuals from many nationalities across the world who are in search of their Caribbean roots.

Sharon's work enables people to gain a better understanding of their personal history and this provides purpose and clarity to the lives of hundreds of people from the African

and Caribbean communities. She also manages Routes Change, which is a professional research service that explores family history and genealogical research.

Q: What does Black History Month mean to you?

A: Black History Month is one of the few occasions that the African and Caribbean diaspora get the opportunity to publicly recognise what is known or hidden, and uncover our truths. It is an honour to work with the public to share information that contributes to the building of our identity.

Q: Why did you decide to work in the field of Caribbean genealogy and family history and when did you start?

A: I was fortunate to have been part raised in Jamaica. At that time I was exposed to talented, confident members of the Caribbean community. When I returned as a teenager to the UK I felt overwhelmingly suppressed. Even at that young age, I felt strongly that Black History ought to have a meaningful place in our society as history shows that we have contributed to the world's civilisation.

I was introduced to genealogy by my cousin in 1995 and it was just a matter of time before I decided to focus my efforts on this field of research. It quickly became a passion to which I dedicated many hours to develop my own family tree, and I soon started helping others trace back their history and ancestors.

I then started to volunteer with Family Search UK in 2003 – and I still do today. As a result I was able to connect with hundreds of individuals from all nationalities across the world in search of their Caribbean roots.

Q: Are there any books that you can recommend in relation to genealogy?

A: From the perspective of Caribbean genealogy, I would recommend the following:

- *Tracing Your Ancestors in Barbados*, by Geraldine Lane
- *Jamaican Ancestry – how to find out more*, by Madeline Mitchell
- *Researching Your Jamaican Family*, by Jennifer O`Sullivan and Pansy Robinson

Q: What has been your most exciting discovery?

A: My most exciting, yet concerning discovery was regarding my paternal grandmother, Margaret Ford, who was of mixed heritage. She had claimed compensation for nine slaves that she "owned" in 1835. I made this discovery before it was aired on the programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?'

Q: How is Caribbean genealogy important?

A: It is important for people to explore and research their identity. Over the years I have found that our communities continue to have a deep interest in discovering and exploring more about their backgrounds, ancestry and family histories.

The reactions generally involve mixed emotions that result in people developing new and healthy relationships with both their family and wider community, as they share these new discoveries.

Q: Out of all the families you have traced, what is the size of the largest family?

A: I supported an American family to trace their ancestors – it numbered 12 children during the 19th century in one generation - all survived into adulthood.

Q: What future work do you have planned?

A: I plan to develop the work I am doing for Routes Change and focus on our website development. I will also continue to support the community through workshops and public speaking engagements.

Q: What is your favourite book and why?

A: I love reading, and I have lots of favourites. I would recommend the book "Claude McKay" – a biography by Wayne F Cooper. It highlights the interesting yet varied life of Jamaican born poet and writer, Claude McKay, who sojourned in Europe and the United States.

If you want to find out more about researching family history then come to one of the Afro-Caribbean family history workshops held in our borough libraries during Black History Month this October (9, 17 and 26 October).

For more information about these specific events, contact the Local History Library and Archive:

T: 020 7525 0232

E: LocalHistoryLibrary@southwark.gov.uk

EVENT LISTINGS

All events are
**FREE WITH NO
NEED TO BOOK**
unless stated
otherwise.

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Black History Month at Camberwell St Michael's

An inspiring few hours of storytelling along with photographs to illustrate the day-to-day lives of young black communities. The storytelling will have themes of migration, settlement and the place of religion, education and skills in working and bringing up a family.

Free access during open hours.

Time: 9am - 11am

Venue: Camberwell St Michael's Church, Wyndham Road SE5 0UB

T: 020 7450 5959

6, 13, 20 AND 27 OCTOBER

Cultural Exchange

Four days of engaging workshops, artistic displays and public performances that will include the Afro-Brazilian Martial-Art Capoeira and Afro-Brazilian dances and rhythms. These workshops are for all members of the Southwark community. The event and displays will be free of charge and there will be workshops for different age groups – from children to adults.

Time: 5pm - 8pm

Venue: Husky Studios, 29a Amelia Street SE17 3PY

We recommend booking a place in advance by email or text.

W: www.culturalexchange.org.uk

E: community@culturalexchange.org.uk

T: 07502 242 102

SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER

Barbara Ellis Presents: Meet Sista and Breda Anancy

Come and meet Sista and Breda Anancy! Talk about and listen to your favourite Anancy stories, colour or write a cartoon Anancy story.

Ages 6 to 11

Time: 2pm - 3pm

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

FEATURED EVENT

18 OCTOBER 2017

Southwark Heritage Open Evening

Southwark's history is told through surviving documents, audio, film clips and photographs. This is a chance to meet some of Southwark borough's historic treasures, find out what you can learn from them and even discover how you can help tell the story of Southwark's diverse places and people by donating items to the archive.

Come and fill gaps in the collection with your own items that shed light on that shed light on Black communities in Southwark and their experiences e.g. Black-owned small businesses, new social clubs and community organisations for African immigrant communities.

Time: 5pm - 7pm

Venue: Local History Library and Archive, 211 Borough High Street, SE1 1JA (at the back of the John Harvard Library)

Contact: LocalHistoryLibrary@southwark.gov.uk



SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER

Art, Culture and Representation

This event demonstrates the importance of 'Art, Culture & Representation' to the lives of Black and Minority Ethnic communities - contributing to their identity, presence and belonging in faith, community and society.

Time: 10.30am - 3.30pm

Venue: Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

W: www.southwark.anglican.org

E: JPICAdmin@southwark.anglican.org

T: 020 7939 9412

SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER AND SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER

Black Scientist Inventors – Who invented the traffic light?

An event exploring Black History and Science. Come and learn about Garrett Augustus Morgan – the son of former slaves who went on to become a world renowned inventor and businessman. His most famous invention is our modern day traffic light. Come and learn more about this fascinating inventor and have the chance to make your very own traffic light!

Time: 1pm - 4pm

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

To book a place please call or email.

W: 07848 389 598

E: scienceclub@cityscientist.org

MONDAY 9 OCTOBER

Afro-Caribbean family history workshop

Come down for a session on researching your Caribbean family history. You can find out more about how to use family history websites and access overseas records, with tips and tools on getting the most from your research! You are invited to share some of your family history stories too and be part of a collective journey of discovery.

Time: 6pm - 7.30pm

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

Free of charge but please book on Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/afro-caribbean-family-history-workshop-tickets-37484767950

For more information contact the Local History Library and Archive on:

E: LocalHistoryLibrary@southwark.gov.uk

T: 020 7525 0232

WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER

Evelyn Dove: Britain's Black Cabaret Queen

Historian Stephen Bourne celebrates the life and career of the glamorous singer Evelyn Dove. In the cabaret age of the inter-war years she thrilled audiences around the world and during World War 2 she kept the home fires burning with her appearances on BBC radio. Stephen will also talk about some of his other books including Black Poppies for which he received the Southwark Arts Forum award for Literature.

Free event.

Time: Doors open at 7.30pm for 7.45pm start.

Venue: Herne Hill United Church Hall, Red Post Hill SE24 9PW

W: www.hernehillsociety.org.uk/society_meeting

WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER

Black History Month: Cartoon Sketch class at the Bradfield Club

A 'funtoons' Black History cartoon workshop - informative and entertaining all at the same time! The workshop will also teach skills and impart knowledge of cartoon drawings of black heroes and heroines from history. A must for Black History enthusiasts and aspiring cartoonists. Free but booking is essential.

Time: 4pm - 5.30pm

Venue: The Bradfield Club, 5-13 Commercial Way, Peckham, London SE15 6DQ

E: tfatunla@hotmail.com

T: 07802 970 511

T: 020 7703 2692



THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER

Barbara Ellis Presents: 'An African Journey'.

This interactive session allows the audience to reflect on what they already know about 'The Americas and Africa' before and after Columbus, as well as the events that took place from 1492 to 1838 when the enslaved Africans liberated themselves from slavery.

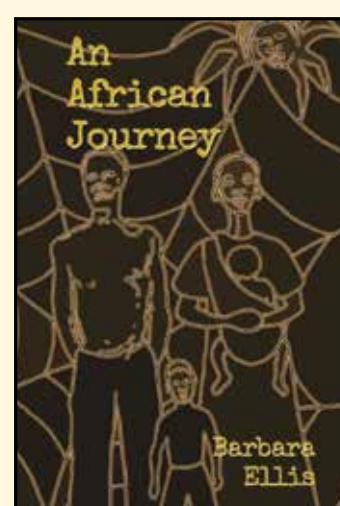
The session will also include discussion, readings and book signing. Books will be on sale.

For ages 18 and over.

Time: 7pm - 8.30pm

Venue: Peckham Library, 5th Floor, Peckham Hill Street SE15 5JR

Book your free place by email: southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk



FRIDAY 13 AND SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER

Voices of black folk

Voices of Black Folk tells the inspirational stories of David Walker, Harriet Tubman, Bessie Coleman and Joseph Bologne and their achievements despite the oppression which they were subjected to during the period of slavery and Jim Crow.

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Heartbeat International Cleman Hall, Brisbane Street, Camberwell SE5 7NL

Cost: £15. Concessions for groups of 10 plus.

£10: Senior citizens

£8: Children

W: www.duoartsandedutainment.com

E: duoarted@outlook.com

T: 07961 789 109

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER

Black-British Heroes

Black History Walks will be giving a presentation about several amazing African British Civil Rights heroes, ranging from 1596 to 2006. After the presentation there will be several guest speakers and contributors delivering more inspiring talks.

Time: 12pm - 5pm

Venue: Bermondsey Village Hall, Kirby Grove SE1 3TD

E: enquiries@leathermarketjmb.org.uk

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER

Back to Black: A celebration of traditional & modern fashion of Black origin

A celebration of Black Culture and its influence on modern fashion. Includes an exhibition of traditional items focussing on elegant head-dress styles and accessories, head-wrapping taster sessions and a parade of creations made by parents. All with music and live drumming.

No booking needed.

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Venue: Camberwell St Michael and All Angels Church, Wyndham Road, Camberwell, London SE5 0UB

E: Josephine.namasisiriley@citizensuk.org

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER

Piano Music of Black Composers

Pianist Emmanuel Vass presents a recital of music by black composers from classical music to jazz piano and Emmanuel's own transcriptions of contemporary music. Come along for this free musical event. Suitable for all ages.

Free entry. No need to book.

Time: 3.45pm - 5pm

Venue: All Saints Church, West Dulwich, Lovelace Road SE21 8JY

W: www.dulwichmusicfestival.co.uk/black-history-month-piano-recital

E: londonpianoevents@gmail.com

SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER

The black heroine that history forgot...

Cleo Sylvestre, together with Dame Elizabeth Anionwu will present this event dedicated to Mary Seacole - the remarkable Jamaican business woman and healer who set up the British Hotel behind the lines during the Crimean War.

Time: 4pm

Venue: Draper Hall, Hampton Street SE1 6TL

W: www.draperestate.com

E: events@draperestate.com

TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

Afro-Caribbean family history workshop

Come down for a session on researching your Caribbean family history. You can find out more about how to use family history websites and access overseas records, with tips and tools on getting the most from your research.

Time: 6pm - 7.30pm

Venue: Camberwell Library, 48 Camberwell Green SE5 7AL

Free of charge but please book on Eventbrite:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/afro-caribbean-family-history-workshop-tickets-37483515203

For more information, contact the Local History Library and Archive on:

E: LocalHistoryLibrary@southwark.gov.uk

T: 020 7525 0232

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER

Celebrating the past and embracing the future

An exciting performance showcasing the work by children from Belham and Bellenden primary schools in conjunction with Elim House elders community centre. Exploring the past and sharing future dreams, hopes and aspirations. All welcome.

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Theatre Peckham, 221 Havil Street SE5 7SD

W: www.theatrepeckham.co.uk

E: admin@theatrepeckham.co.uk

T: 020 7708 5401

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

Celebrate Our Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Age UK Lewisham and Southwark and Stones End Day Centre have teamed up to bring this event exploring cultural heritage, herbal remedies, music and dance - many of which have been handed down from generation to generation.

Bookings can be made on 020 7358 4052.

Time: 11.30am - 3pm

Venue: Stones End Day Centre, 11 Scovell Road SE1 1QQ

E: ageUK@ageuklands.org.uk

T: 020 7358 4052

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER

Black LGBT Southwark: Past, Present and Future

A performance event exploring the Black LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) history of Southwark. The event will comprise of fine art, performances and exhibitions that promote heritage, music, literature and a positive LGBT identity.

Time: 3pm - 8.30pm

Venue: VP Studios, Aylesbury Enterprise Centre, Thurlow Street SE17 2UU

W: www.southwarklgbtnetwork.com

E: Nathan@communitysouthwark.org

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER

South by South: Black History Month

South by South is the South London Gallery's programme for innovative African Cinema. It now presents a special health and wellbeing edition for Black History Month, including a film screening and in-depth discussion in partnership with the sexual health charity, NAZ.

Free event although booking is advised.

Time: 12pm - 6pm

Masterclass: 12pm

Film Screening: 2pm

Discussion: 4pm

Venue: Clore Studio, South London Gallery, 65-67 Peckham Road SE5 8UH

W: www.southlondongallery.org

E: mail@southlondongallery.org

T: 020 7703 6120

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER

How our past shapes our future

Take a step back into our past and look at black inventors and how their inventions have left a lasting impression on our lives. There will also be a showcase of diverse music and dance from past to present.

No need to book.

Time: 10:30am - 5pm

Venue: Buchan Tenant Hall, 86 Buchan Road, Nunhead SE15 3HQ

W: www.londonseniorsocial.com

E: senioractivity@yahoo.co.uk

T: 07930 646608

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER

Concert of Poetry, Music, Drama and Dance

An exciting evening of poetry, music, dance and drama to showcase the illustrative past of African, African-Caribbean and other Diaspora communities – and their hopes for the future.

Time: 5pm - 8pm

Venue: Walworth Methodist Church, 54 Camberwell Road, SE5 0EW

Tickets are priced at £1 for children and £3 for adults

W: www.walworthmethodist.org.uk

T: For all enquiries contact the church office: 020 7703 2477

23, 25 AND 27 OCTOBER

3 Day Children's Workshop

In this workshop children will be taught the history and culture of African, Caribbean and other diaspora communities represented within the church and local community. Participation is open to children in Southwark and surrounding boroughs.

Free event.

Time: 10am - 4pm

Venue: Walworth Methodist Church, 54 Camberwell Road, SE5 0EW

W: www.walworthmethodist.org.uk

T: For all enquiries contact the church office: 020 7703 2477

TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER

The Reading Corner with

Casey Elisha Books

Casey Elisha Books Reading Corner aims to inspire and celebrate diversity within children's literature. For under-fives and all the family.

Time: 2pm - 3pm

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



WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER

Celebrating Sporting Success in Mental Wellness

Sporting Recovery is holding a celebration day promoting mental health success. Visitors can enjoy various sporting activities for example, there will be a Kemetic (African) Yoga session and an African Cup of Nations mini football tournament.

The activities available include table tennis, badminton, dancing, non-contact boxing, yoga and pilates. Selected celebs will be talking about how sports has improved their mental health. There will be healthy food available, including lunch from the cafeteria.

Time: 10am - 4pm

Venue: Damilola Taylor Centre, 1 East Surrey Grove, Peckham SE15 6DR

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebrating-sporting-success-in-mental-wellness-tickets-36777405209

W: www.sportingrecovery.org.uk

E: help@sportingrecovery.org.uk

T: 0300 030 1233

THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER

Our past, our present and our future

This event is run by the Golden Oldies Community Care Project which provides community care and support for older people in London. Their aim is to assist older people to maintain a healthy lifestyle – promoting dignity and independent living in later years.

Come and listen to a collection of the top pioneering experiences of some 'Golden Oldie' members, including difficulties and obstacles faced and significant achievements made. These stories will be shared and brought to life through a variety of readings, poetry and an exhibition.

Free entry.

Time: 11.30am - 3.30pm

Venue: Walworth Methodist Church, 54 Camberwell Road SE5 0EN

W: www.southwark-golden-oldies.org/activities

E: walworthgolden.oldies@gmail.com

THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER

Afro-Caribbean family history workshop

Come down for a session on researching Caribbean family history. You can find out how to use family history websites and access overseas records. You are invited to share some of your family history stories too and be part of a collective journey of discovery.

Free of charge, but please book on Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/afro-caribbean-family-history-workshop-tickets-37527425540

Time: 6pm - 7.30pm

Venue: John Harvard Library, 211 Borough High Street SE1 1JA

For more information, contact the Local History Library and Archive on:

E: LocalHistoryLibrary@southwark.gov.uk

T: 020 7525 0232

FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER

Educating Black Boys –

19th century, present and future

Celebrating the unique and colourful history of educating Black boys, starting from the Clapham Sect's African Academy for Sierra Leonean boys in 1799 to the present day. The event will go further to explore future education models through presentations, discussion, literature, exhibition and a fun quiz.

Time: 6.30pm - 10.30pm

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

Register to receive your free ticket at:
www.educatingblackboys19thcentury.eventbrite.co.uk

W: www.thekrios.com

E: info@thekrios.com

SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

Bring and Buy: Cultural Celebrations

A 'bring and buy' cultural day celebration with food stalls and a display of food from all over the world. African wares, fashion and artefacts will also be on display as an exhibiton. There will be a cultural display from Diaspora groups within the church and community.

Free event.

Time: 2pm - 8pm

Venue: Walworth Methodist Church, 54 Camberwell Road SE5 0EW

W: www.walworthmethodist.org.uk

T: For all enquiries contact the church office 020 7703 2477

SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER

Back and Forth – celebrating

our past, present and future

African arts day where we celebrate the colourful past, present and future of African culture through dance, drumming, poetry, discussion, debate and drama.

Please book a place for the workshop.

Time: 11am - 9pm

Venue: The Old Mortuary, St Marychurch Street, Rotherhithe SE16 4JE

W: www.thewomenscommunityforum.org.uk

E: thewomenscommunityforum@yahoo.co.uk

T: 07449 196 673

SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER

My Art Beats In London

Pop-up exhibition highlighting young children's artwork.

Family activities will happen on the day including a film club and creative workshops.

No booking required but feel free to contact the team if you need more details.

Drop in family session.

Time: 10.30am - 5pm

Venue: Surrey Quays Shopping centre, Unit facing Tesco entrance (Canada Water Master Plan Hub)

W: www.bizziebodies.co.uk

E: info@bizziebodies.co.uk

TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER

Find out how you can make a

real difference by adopting or

fostering

Would you help a Caribbean or African child thrive in a loving family?

Adoptive parents and foster carers are needed to provide support and guidance to children in care, and help them grow up to be proud of their culture and heritage.

Whether or not you have children already, are single or in a relationship, come and find out more about adopting or fostering.

Time: 11am - 2pm

Venue: Southwark Council - Foyer, 160 Tooley Street SE1 2QH

W: www.southwark.gov.uk/adoption

E: adoption@southwark.gov.uk



TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER

Young Othello: The Tragedy of the

White Swan by Onyeka Nubia

Theatrical reading of a drama set within an ancient African kingdom untouched by slavery or colonialism. Greed, jealousy and the thirst for power bring about the destruction of a nation and provide a deeper understanding of one of Shakespeare's most maligned characters – Othello.

Free event.

Time: 7.30pm

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

W: www.narrative-eye.org.uk

E: info@narrative-eye.org.uk



FEATURED EVENT

Baby and toddler sessions throughout October!

Join us for stories and crafts to celebrate Black History Month. Our baby and toddler sessions are aimed at pre-school children and their parents or carers. Each session includes storytelling, songs, simple crafts and activities designed to stimulate young minds.

These events will be held across Southwark libraries. For a full list of these lively library events go to southwark.gov.uk/bhm2017



All information is correct at time of publication