

# PROUD OF OUR BLACK HISTORY

Celebrating Hammersmith & Fulham's diversity and the historic figures who help make this such a special borough **365 days of the year.**



Legendary reggae shop Peckings Records honoured by H&F with a blue plaque.

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Picture by Justin Thomas

## Can you help us?

This booklet is not intended to be a complete guide to Hammersmith & Fulham's Black history. It's an evolving project and we know just how big a task it is given H&F's unique history and diversity. We're always searching for historic figures who deserve more recognition or remarkable locations that have had a big impact in the community. Can you help us? Do your family members have any stories about moving to H&F or living in H&F?

**Have your parents email us at: [heritage@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:heritage@lbhf.gov.uk)**

# OUR BLACK HISTORY

## WE ASKED:

Which historical black individuals lived here?

Were we always a diverse borough?

How did that road get its name?

Did Hammersmith & Fulham play a part in the slave trade?

Welcome to the second edition of our Black History Booklet!

Back in 2021 we set out to uncover the lost history of Hammersmith & Fulham and gave ourselves a target to recognise hidden figures and iconic locations from our past with our own blue plaques. Over the past three years we've put up 10 new plaques and celebrated a wide range of H&F's political, cultural and artistic history.

### **But what's next?**

Our new mission, as well as continuing to uncover more hidden history, is to educate. We've started doing this already by working with local schools and places such as the British Museum to host talks and workshops that help provide context to the history H&F played such a big role in. In this booklet we've included a few of these workshops

as fun activities that you can do in class or at home, such as designing your own African country. Over the next few years we want to roll these out to more schools, and the wider community, with events in our libraries and parks.

A key part of this is our delight at announcing the opening of a new museum in the borough, which will be a focus for continuing work.

Once again we would like to thank you all for your continued support for the work we are doing.



**Cllr Sharon Holder,**  
Cabinet Member  
for the Public  
Realm



**Cllr Mercy Umeh,**  
H&F Lead Member  
for Culture &  
Heritage

# BLACK HISTORY TIMELINE



**Septimius Severus**, the first Roman Emperor of African descent, dies in York.



Earliest known drawing of a black Briton is made in the **Domesday book**.



**John Blanke** is a trumpeter in the court of Henry VIII. He is the only black Tudor we know was pictured.



**The Royal African Company** is granted a charter giving it exclusive rights to carry slaves to the Americas.



**Aphra Behn** publishes her novel *Oroonoko* about African royalty. She is one of the first to attack the slave trade.



By the mid-1700s sugar is grown entirely by slave labour and is England's biggest import. It is why some don't want to abolish slavery.

# BEFORE 1900



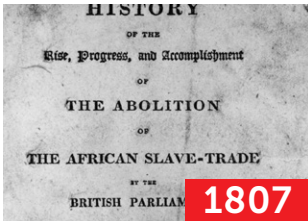
**Jacques Francis** is hired to retrieve the guns from the sunken *Mary Rose*. He later becomes the first African to give evidence in an English court of law.



**John Hawkins** is the first Englishman to lead a slave trading voyage. Around 13 million Africans are forcibly taken from their homes in subsequent years.



**Queen Elizabeth I** authorised a merchant to transport black people to Spain and Portugal, with their masters' consent. However, most refused permission, and more than 360 Africans continued to live in the British Isles.



**The British slave trade is abolished.** However, it is still legal to own and buy slaves from slave traders across the Empire. Slave owners were compensated by the government for “loss of goods” for many years to come.



**All slaves (except in India) are set free.** However, they must work for their old masters for free or for low pay until 1840.



**European powers meet to divide Africa between them.** In many cases the new national boundaries do not take into full account the needs, history or language of the African people. These decisions often led to war and conflict later on.

# BRITAIN'S BLACK HISTORY TIMELINE



**John Archer** is elected Mayor of Battersea, becoming the first black mayor of London.



Black Britons took part in every part of the war effort. The most famous is former Tottenham Hotspur player **Lt. Walter Tull**.



In **Butetown** 2,000 white people attack shops and homes associated with black people. Many are hurt.



**The Commonwealth Immigrants Act** restricts black entry to the UK. The Act is updated in 1968, 1971 and 1981.



**Bristol Bus Boycott:** West Indians and white supporters refused to use the Bristol bus service until the service lifted their colour bar. A colour bar is when a company refuses to employ a person because they are not white.



**The Race Relations Act** makes racial discrimination illegal in public places. Protections are extended in 1968 and 1976.

# AFTER 1900



10,000 men and women from the Caribbean come to the UK to help with the war effort.



**The Empire Windrush** brings one of the largest groups of post-war immigrants to the UK. British Caribbean people who came to the UK are known as the Windrush Generation.



After WWII the British Empire granted India independence in 1947 and split the country into two: India and Pakistan. The split left between 10 and 20 million people without a home and created a large refugee crisis. Many of those refugees fled to Britain to help fill labour shortages after the war.



**The Notting Hill Carnival** is launched by activist Rhaune Laslett to celebrate diversity and help soothe tensions after the 1958 Notting Hill Race Riots.



During a peaceful protest against the unfair police targeting of The Mangrove Caribbean restaurant in Notting Hill, the **'Mangrove Nine'** were arrested for causing a riot. The sensational trial lasted for 55 days before a judge ruled against the police and found the activists not guilty.



**President Idi Amin** of Uganda ordered 60,000 Asians to leave the country within 90 days. More than 30,000 with British passports fled to the UK. Here, the government explored different ways to stop them from staying, including giving them money to surrender their British passports.

# BRITAIN'S BLACK HISTORY TIMELINE



1980s-1990s

The UK has been home to Somalians since the 19th century when Somali sailors and ship builders migrated to find work in the Royal Navy. However, when the civil war broke out the population quickly grew as women and children fled the fighting at home. By 1999 53% of Somali refugees applied to come to the UK. It is thought the UK is now home to the largest Somali community in Europe.



1981

**The Brixton Riots** occur as tensions rise between the black British community and the police over alleged police brutality. Rioting lasts for three days and spreads across the UK.



1987

The UK elects four black MPs including **Diane Abbott**, the first black female MP.



# AFTER 1900



Author **Stephen Bourne** published a book of interviews with Esther Bruce, his mixed-race adopted aunt from Fulham. It told her life story, including her work as a seamstress as well as her experiences during the Second World War when her father was killed in an air raid. The book is titled *Esther Bruce – A Black London Seamstress: Her Story 1912-1994*. It won the Raymond Williams Prize for community publishing and was described by the Caribbean Times as inspirational and enlightening.



The first black manager of a UK national football team, **Hope Powell**, was in charge of England Women from 1998-2013, twice reaching the quarter-finals of the Women's World Cup. Her 20-year playing career included two years in Fulham, during which she appeared in the Women's FA Cup final. In 2003 she became the first woman to achieve the Uefa Pro Licence, the highest coaching qualification. Widely regarded as one of the finest technical coaches in the country, She managed Brighton Women for five years, and is now the women's technical director at Birmingham City.



**The Race Relations (Amendment) Act** is passed requiring police, universities and public authorities to promote race equality.

# BRITAIN'S BLACK HISTORY TIMELINE



2001

**Former Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman** shot to fame in 2001 with the first book in her Noughts & Crosses series, later a TV series featuring her superfan Stormzy. Malorie, 62, whose parents were both from Barbados, addresses racism head-on in her books. "I wanted to show black children just getting on with their lives, having adventures and solving their dilemmas, like the characters in all the books I read as a child," she said. She was made an OBE in 2008.



2004

A prolific composer and conductor of Jamaican descent, **Shirley Thompson** has written for film, TV and theatre as well as creating operas, concertos, symphonies and ballets. Shirley Thompson combines her own creativity with teaching others as Professor of Music at the University of Westminster. Shirley became the first woman in Europe to compose and conduct a symphony in the last 40 years with the 2004 work *New Nation Rising*, A 21st Century Symphony, a celebration of 1,000 years of London history.



2018

It is revealed that thousands of Caribbean migrants who have the right to settle in the UK have been wrongly sent back to the Caribbean, kept in detention centres, and denied access to NHS treatment and their legal rights. After a lot of public anger about the unfair treatment of these people the government apologises and agrees to pay them money for what has happened.



2020

Following the murder of **George Floyd** by a police officer in Minneapolis demonstrations sweep the world under the slogan of **Black Lives Matter** including across the UK.

# AFTER 2000



From humble beginnings in Somalia, **Mo Farah** arrived in West London aged eight and barely speaking English. Guided along by his PE teacher, he came 9th in the U13s race at the London Youth Games in 1994, then went on to do the long-distance 'double double' at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics – winning gold at 5,000 and 10,000 metres. Knighted for service to athletics, he switched to the marathon and still trains in H&F with his wife and four children.



Man Utd footballer **Marcus Rashford** turns 26 this Black History Month, and is a household name as a campaigner against child poverty and racism. From humble beginnings (his mother skipped meals to make sure the family ate) he joined the United academy at the age of seven, and scored twice on his full debut in 2016. That year he became part of England's Euro squad. His campaigning was key to a government U-turn on providing free school meals during summer holidays.



This will mark the 75th year since the **Empire Windrush** arrived in the UK (see 1948 and 2018).



This will be **100th anniversary of Black History Month** which was introduced by **Carter Woodson** in the United States.

# HISTORIC FIGURES

Did you know a lot of famous people who had an impact on Black history worked, lived or are laid to rest in Hammersmith & Fulham?

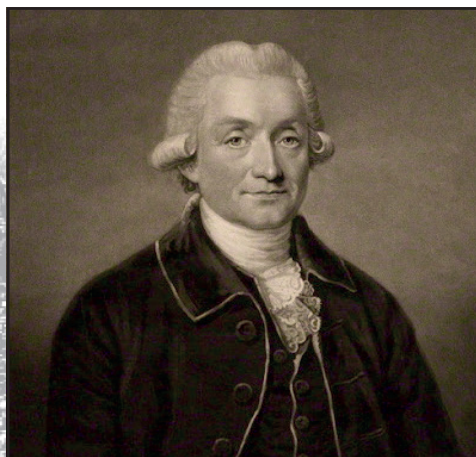
Sadly they often get left out of history lessons, but it is important - especially during **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** - to remember them. Here are just a few examples of the **Hidden Figures** who have helped influence and shape our borough for the better.



**Beilby Porteus, 1731-1809**  
**Lived at Fulham Palace between 1787 and 1809 while Bishop of London.**

1

Porteus began battling the slave trade as Bishop of Chester. He pressed the Church of England, owner of a Barbados plantation, to set an example and teach slaves Christianity. In a 1783 sermon he asked fellow bishops to back him, and was disappointed when they refused. In the House of Lords he championed the 1807 Slave Trade Act which ended the British trade in enslaved people... a stepping stone to total abolition.



**Granville Sharp, 1735-1813,**  
**lived in Fulham, Buried in All Saints Churchyard, SW6**

2

Sharp was a lawyer and abolitionist who became famous for protecting Black slaves who had run away from their masters. He studied laws about slavery and used what he learnt to help slaves win their freedom, among them Jonathan Strong and James Somerset.



**Mary Seacole, 1805-1881,  
Buried in St Mary's Catholic  
Cemetery, 679-681 Harrow Road,  
NW10 5NU**

3

Seacole was a nurse during the Crimean War. She came to London at the age of 50 and asked if she could tend to the sick and wounded in the Crimea. She was rejected. Determined to help, she paid her own travel costs and set off to help. There, she built her own hospital and even went to help soldiers on the battlefield during the fighting! The men wrote to the newspapers about her heroic efforts. When Mary returned from the war, she was very poor but the soldiers she helped hadn't forgotten her. They threw a big festival and raised a lot of money to help her.



**Ellen & William Craft,  
1820s-1900,  
Lived at 26 Cambridge Grove,  
W6 0LA**

4

The Crafts were ex-slaves who escaped from the American South to the North, with Ellen dressed as a man to avoid detection. They made their way to the UK, settling in Hammersmith after the Fugitive Slave Act was passed in America. Ellen was a part of the Women's Rights movement.



**Fanny Eaton, 1835-1924,  
Lived at 66 Davisville Road,  
W12 9SJ**

5

**Buried in Margravine Cemetery**

Eaton was born in Jamaica and moved to London in the 1840s. She became a famous model for the Pre-Raphaelites - a group of English painters, poets and art critics.

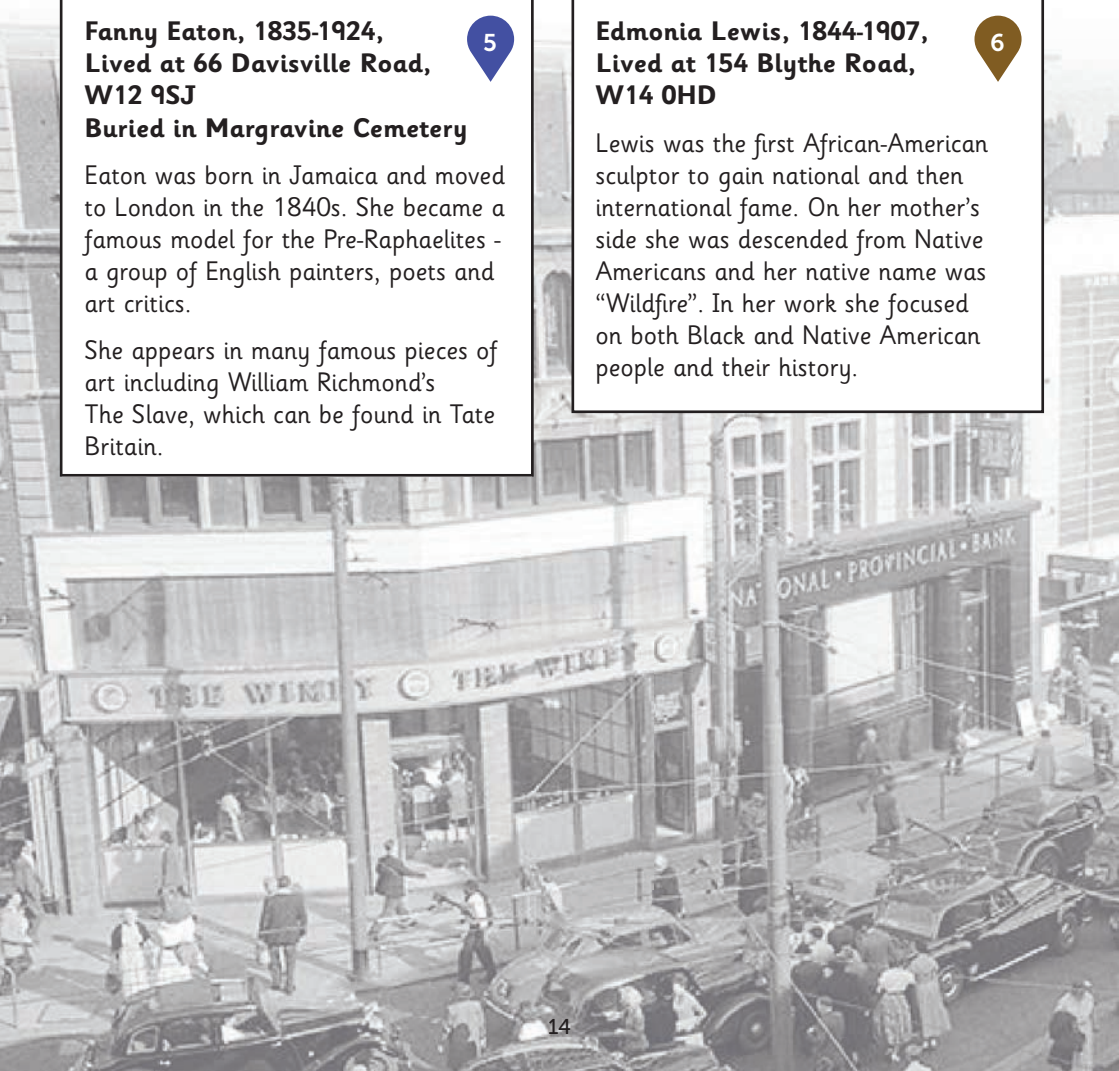
She appears in many famous pieces of art including William Richmond's *The Slave*, which can be found in Tate Britain.



**Edmonia Lewis, 1844-1907,  
Lived at 154 Blythe Road,  
W14 0HD**

6

Lewis was the first African-American sculptor to gain national and then international fame. On her mother's side she was descended from Native Americans and her native name was "Wildfire". In her work she focused on both Black and Native American people and their history.





**Lolita Roy, 1865,  
Lived at 77 Brook Green,  
W6 7BE**



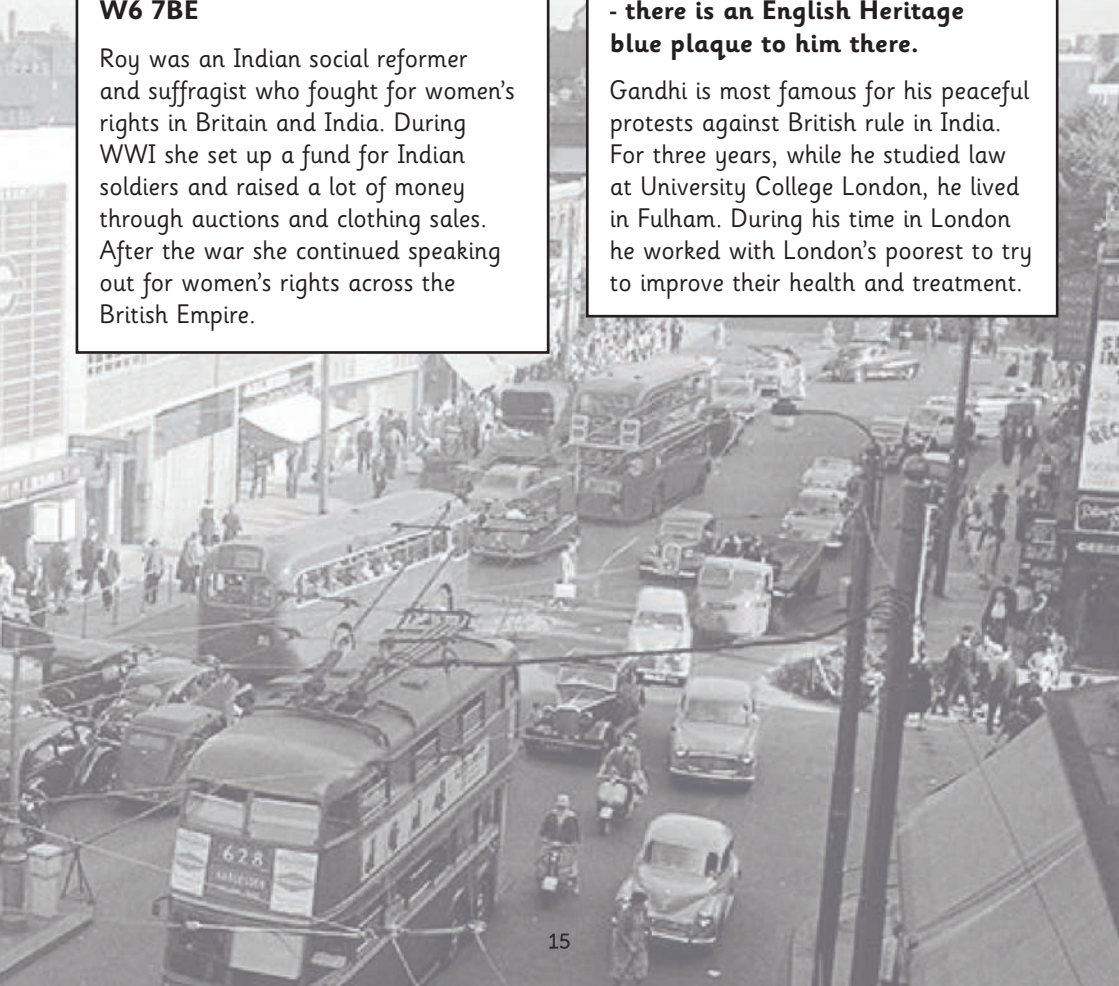
Roy was an Indian social reformer and suffragist who fought for women's rights in Britain and India. During WWI she set up a fund for Indian soldiers and raised a lot of money through auctions and clothing sales. After the war she continued speaking out for women's rights across the British Empire.

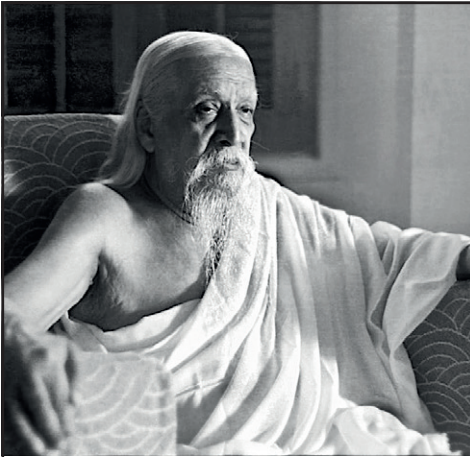


**Mahatma Gandhi, 1869-1948,  
lived at 20 Barons Court Road  
- there is an English Heritage  
blue plaque to him there.**



Gandhi is most famous for his peaceful protests against British rule in India. For three years, while he studied law at University College London, he lived in Fulham. During his time in London he worked with London's poorest to try to improve their health and treatment.

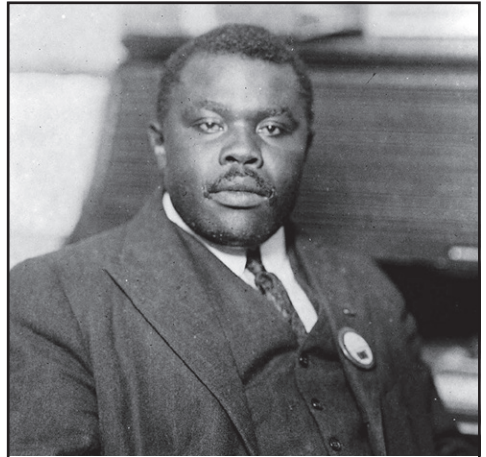




**Sri Aurobindo, 1872-1950,  
Lived at 49 St Stephens  
Avenue, W12 8JB**



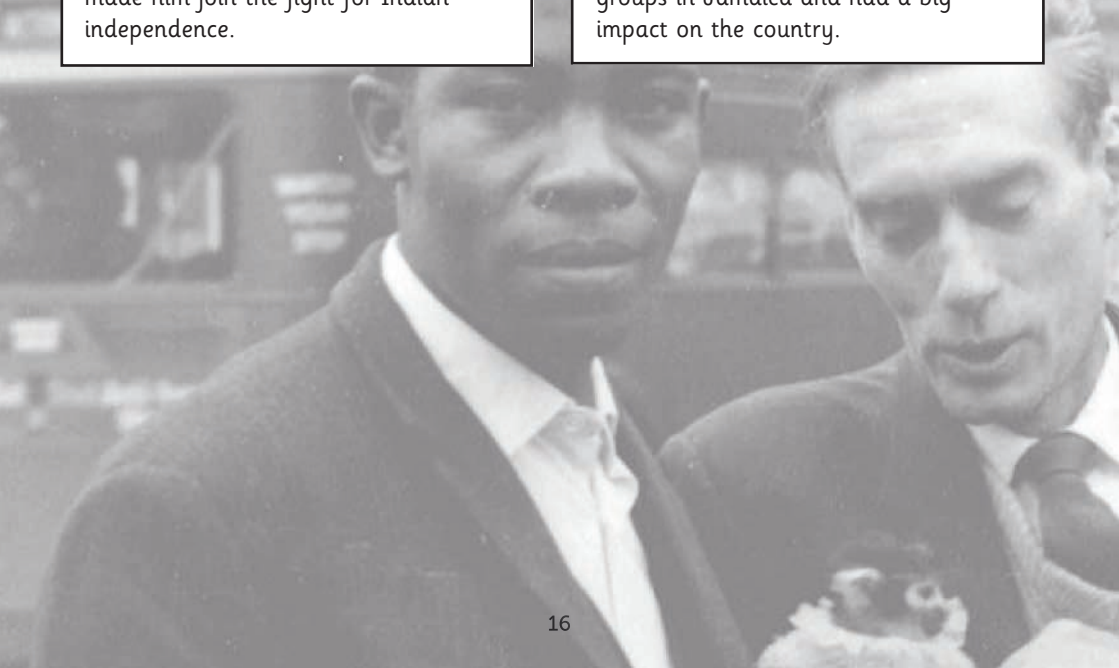
Aurobindo was an Indian spiritualist and poet who wanted Indian independence. As a teenager he went to St Paul's School in Hammersmith where he became inspired by rebels such as Joan of Arc and Giuseppe Mazzini and learnt how India was ruled by Britain. This is what later made him join the fight for Indian independence.



**Marcus Garvey, 1887-1940,  
Lived at 53 Talgarth Road,  
W14 9DD**



Garvey was a Pan-Africanist who founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). The organisation was designed to strengthen bonds between Black people all around the world, including Africa, and advance their rights. The UNIA was one of the largest anticolonialism groups in Jamaica and had a big impact on the country.







**Amy Jacques Garvey,  
1895-1973,  
Lived at 53 Talgarth Road,  
W14 9DD**

11

AJ was a famous journalist and speaker for the Pan-African movement. In the UNIA she was as important as her husband Marcus, and ran the organisation alone when he was in prison. She edited *The Negro World*, a paper which was used by the Harlem Resistance to promote art, culture and political articles.



**Jomo Kenyatta, 1897-1978,  
Lived at 57 Castletown Road,  
W14 9HG**

12

Kenyatta was Prime Minister of Kenya and was later its first President. He was the first indigenous (born in Kenya) leader, and helped Kenya transform from a British colony to an independent country. He lived in London for three years, making friends with communists and other anti-imperialists (people who didn't want to be ruled by Britain).





**Indra Lal Roy, 1898-1918,  
Lived at 77 Brook Green,  
W6 7BE**



Son of the famous Lolita Roy, Indra Lal Roy achieved his own fame by becoming the first and only Indian flying ace in WWI. When war broke out, Roy was still at school. He applied to the RAF, but was turned down due to poor eyesight. Keen to help the war effort, he saw an eye specialist and had the decision overturned. In 170 hours of flying, Roy won 10 battles. Sadly he was killed in 1918 in France.



**Adelaide Louise Estelle Hall  
1901-1993  
Lived at Fairholme Road, W14**



Born in New York, Adelaide became one of the best-loved jazz and cabaret singers and tap dancers, and performed with legends such as Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, Josephine Baker and Louis Armstrong. In 1941, she was Britain's highest paid entertainer. She was one of the first Black performers to top the bill at the London Palladium, and played to full houses at the Hammersmith's Riverside Studios and the Hammersmith Palais. She frequently appeared on the BBC as well as recording extensively for Decca Records. In the early 1950s, Hall and her husband Bert opened the Calypso Club in Regent Street. She lived in Fulham from 1980 until her death at 92 in Charing Cross Hospital.



**Esther Bruce, 1912-1994,  
Lived at Dieppe Street, W14**

15

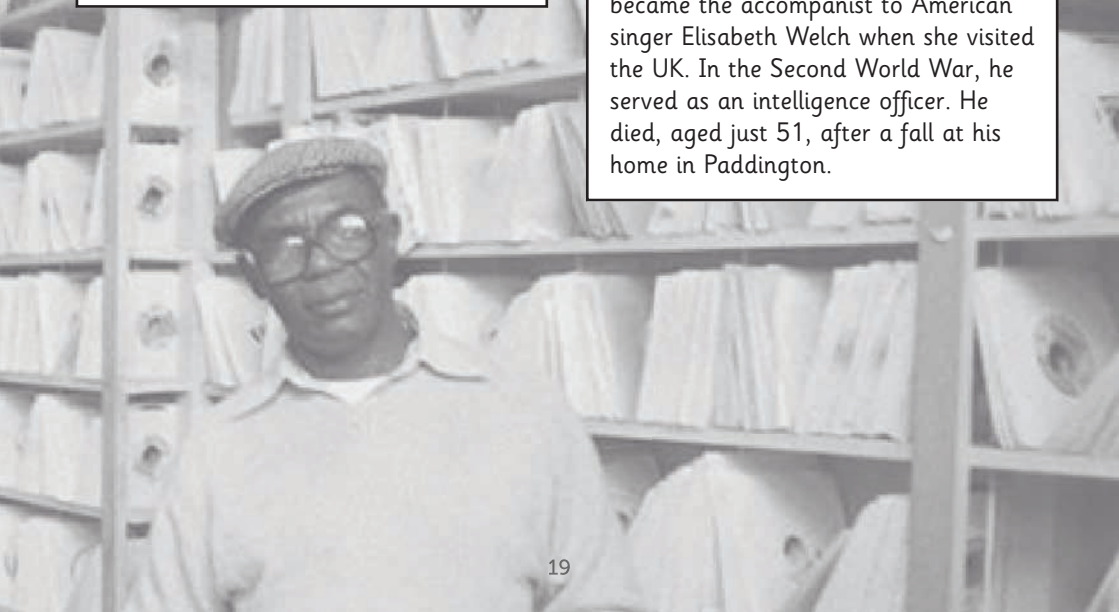
From a young age, Bruce was taught by her father to take pride in her Black heritage and stand up to racism. During WWII she volunteered as a Fire Watcher – people who stood on rooftops during air raids and helped put out fires caused by bombs. She also united her community by writing to her family in Guyana for food parcels and sharing what she was sent with her neighbours.



**Reginald Charles Foresythe  
1907-1958  
Lived in 15 Hetley Road, W12**

16

The jazz pianist, composer and bandleader was born in Hetley Road, W12, growing up in the area's west African community. In the early 1930s, he was established in the American jazz scene, writing arrangements for Earl Hines and recording with Benny Goodman and Gene Krupa. Louis Armstrong and Fats Waller recorded his tunes, and he later became the accompanist to American singer Elisabeth Welch when she visited the UK. In the Second World War, he served as an intelligence officer. He died, aged just 51, after a fall at his home in Paddington.





**Fela Kuti, 1938-1997**  
**Lived at 12 Stanlake Road,**  
**W12 7HP**

17

Fela Kuti was a Nigerian singer, multi-instrumentalist, bandleader, political activist and regarded as the founder of the influential musical style 'Afrobeat'. He moved to London in 1958 and studied at Trinity College of Music (his parents wanted him to be a doctor). He married his first wife, Remilekun (Remi) Taylor in 1960, and had three children (Femi, Yeni, and Sola). In 1963, he moved back to the newly independent Federation of Nigeria and attempted to run for its first presidency. In 1984, he was jailed for 20 months in Nigeria for his political views.



**Dr John Alcindor 1873-1924**  
**Buried in St Mary's Catholic**  
**Cemetery, 679-681 Harrow Road,**  
**NW10 5NU**

18

Originally from Trinidad, Alcindor was a talented and popular doctor who worked in London. When WWI broke out, he was eager to help and in 1914 he applied to join the Royal Army Medical Corp. Sadly he was rejected because of his "colonial origin". Instead of being sad, Alcindor was determined to help and signed up as a Red Cross volunteer where he helped soldiers returning from the front line. He was awarded a Red Cross Medal for his life saving work. After the war he became a senior district medical officer for Paddington and became known for his excellent patient care no matter their origin or race. He became known as the "Black doctor of Paddington."



**Louis Bruce**  
7 St Peter's Grove,  
W6 9AY

19

Louis Bruce was the first Black British Olympian, reaching the quarter-finals of the heavyweight wrestling category at the 1908 London Olympics. He became one of the first Black tram drivers in the UK. A plaque to him was unveiled in Hammersmith in 2023.



**Janet Olufunmilayo Adegoke**

20

Janet Olufunmilayo Adegoke was the first Black woman to become the Mayor of a London borough. She was elected Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham in 1987.



**Labi Siffre**  
**311 Goldhawk Road,**  
**W6 0SZ**

21

Claudius Afolabi 'Labi' Siffre was a singer, musician and poet. He was born on 25 June 1945 at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, which was then based close to this location on Goldhawk Road. The hospital moved to the Hammersmith Hospital site at Du Cane Road in 2000.



# HORRIBLE HISTORY

Unfortunately, not everybody who lived in Hammersmith & Fulham thought that Black people and other ethnic minorities should have the same rights as white people. When they were alive these opinions were not uncommon, but today we know they are wrong. Below are examples of famous local **Historic Figures** who played a negative role in the UK's Black history



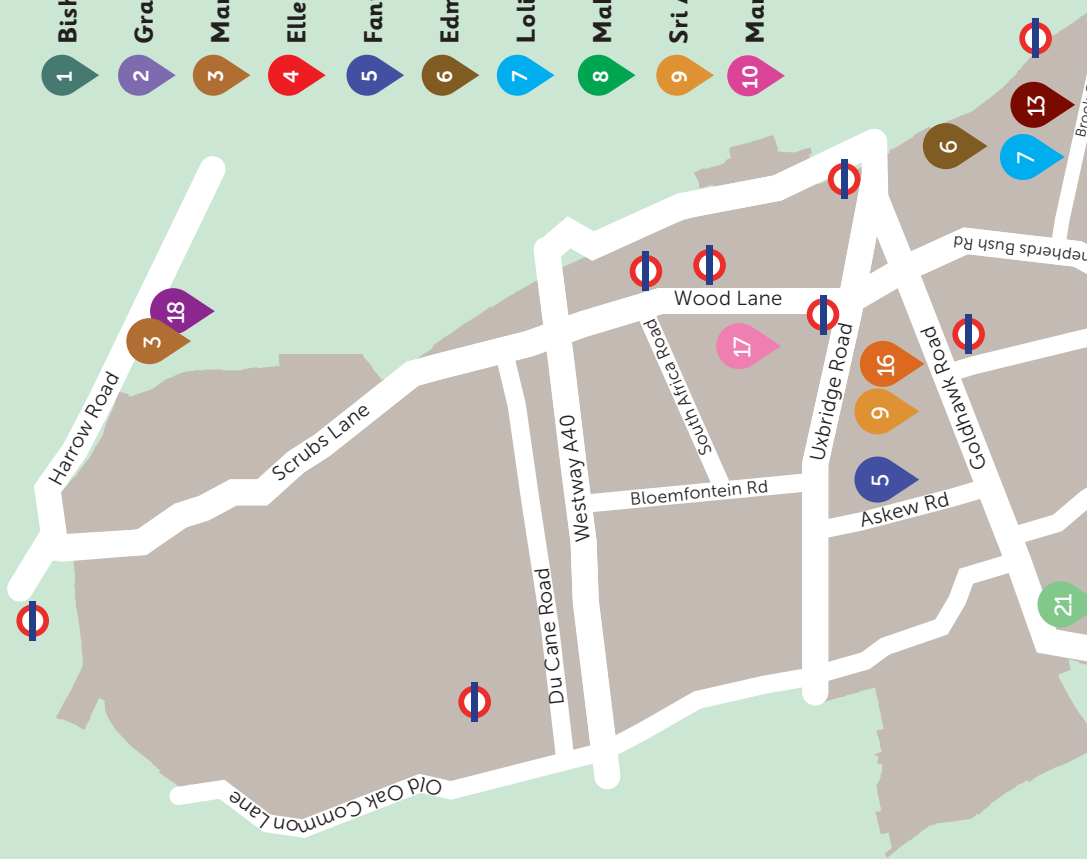
**Sir Nicholas Crisp,  
1599-1666**

Crisp was a wealthy merchant and royalist who supported Charles I during the English Civil War. He is famous for his brickworks. Crisp was also involved in the Slave Trade. Using glass beads he made on site at his house, Crisp bought and sold slaves across the Atlantic.



**Frederick Marryat,  
1792-1848**

Today, Marryat is famous for his children's stories about naval adventures during the height of the British Empire. His father, Joseph Marryat, was a known slave-owner and fought against the end of the Slave Trade. Like his father, Frederick defended the Slave Trade and believed that Africans were not ready to be free. His stories also contained wrong and hurtful descriptions of Black people.



1

**Bishop Beilby Porteus**

2

**Granville Sharp**

3

**Mary Seacole**

4

**Ellen & William Craft**

5

**Fanny Eaton**

6

**Edmonia Lewis**

7

**Lolita Roy**

8

**Mahatma Gandhi**

9

**Sri Aurobindo**

10

**Marcus Garvey**

11

**Amy Jacques Garvey**

12

**Jomo Kenyatta**

13

**Inra Lal Roy**

14

**Esther Bruce**

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**Adelaide Louise Estelle Hall**

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**Reginald Charles Foresythe**

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**Fela Kuti**

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**Dr John Alcindor**

19

**Louis Bruce**

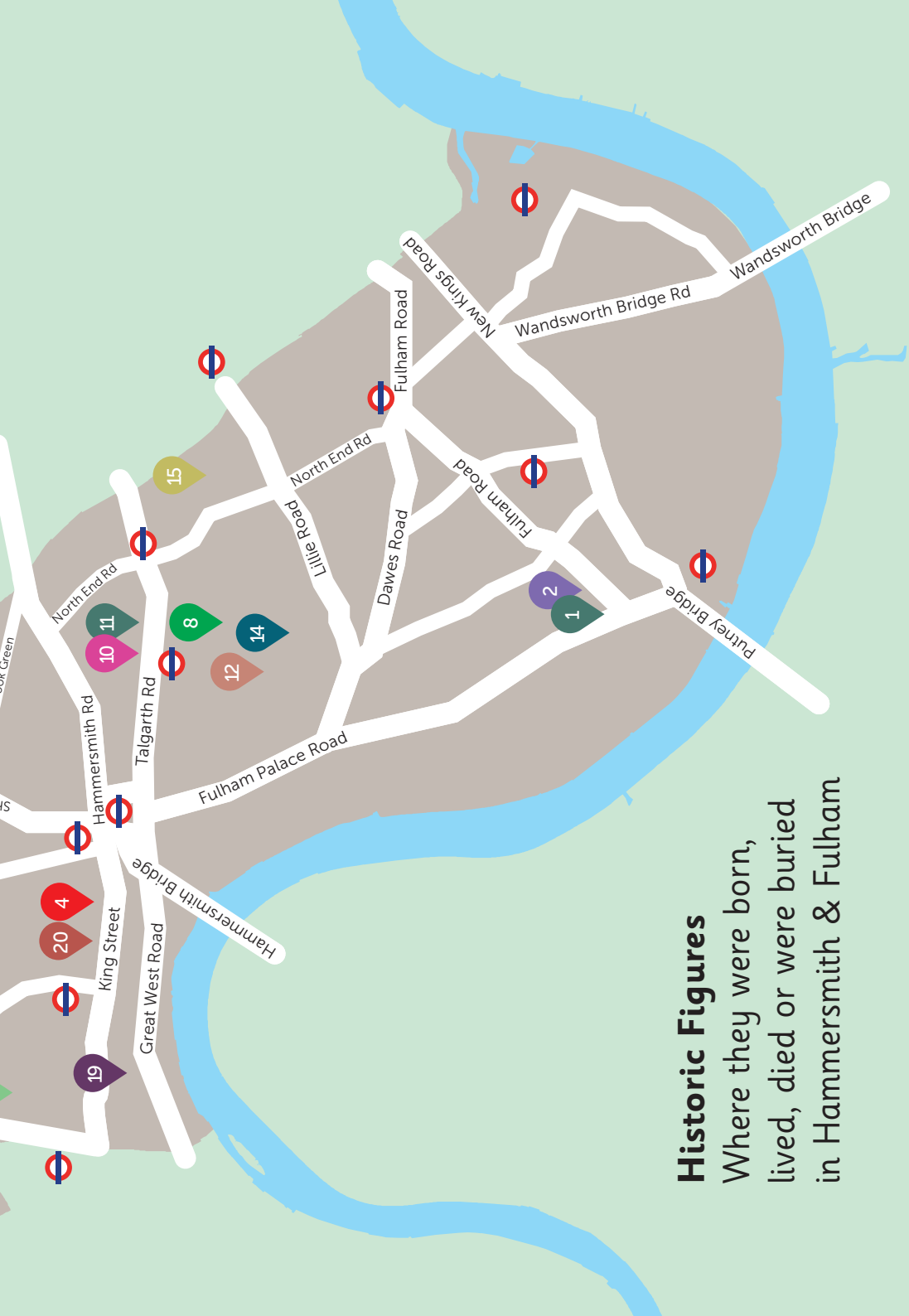
20

**Janet Olufunmilayo Adegoke**

21

**Labi Siffre**





**Historic Figures**  
Where they were born,  
lived, died or were buried  
in Hammersmith & Fulham

# HISTORIC LANDMARKS IN LOCAL BLACK HISTORY

Want to see the historic landmarks of H&F's Black history for yourself? Use the map on page 30 and 31 to visit the spots on the trail.



1

## **Hammersmith Palais** **242 Shepherd's Bush Road, W6**

The Palais was a dance hall and entertainment venue that was open from 1919 to 2007. It was the first of its kind to be built in Britain and quickly became known to many as the mainstay of dances and later the punk and reggae scene in London.



2

## **Hammersmith Odeon (now the Eventim Apollo)** **Hammersmith Broadway, W6**

Built in 1932 as a cinema, the Odeon took on an exalted place in London's music folklore. Bob Marley played a series of gigs in 1976. It has been renamed as the Eventim Apollo and is still one of London's major live entertainment venues.



3

## **Greensleeves Records** **44 Uxbridge Road, W12**

Opened in 1977, this reggae shop was home to the number one label for the sound of the Caribbean, and for Caribbean influenced Black British music. Musicians such as Shaggy and Sean Paul had pop crossovers with this record label.



4

## **Shepherd's Bush Market** **Between Goldhawk Road and Uxbridge Road, W12**

Opened in 1914, the market is home to a diverse range of traders selling everything from food and fabric to household goods and electronics. In more than a century it closed only once, in 1915, due to the First World War. It reopened in 1918 when ex-soldiers from across the Empire were offered stalls to help restart their lives.



**5 Goldhawk Road fabric district  
near Shepherds Bush Market, W12**

Home of the famous fabric quarter, the shops here are over 150 years old and businesses have been passed down through the generations. From Swedish rag rugs and Scottish tartans, to bold African prints and Indian silk shawls, shoppers can find imported fabrics from across the globe.



**6 Peckings Records  
81 Askew Road, W12**

Reggae music pioneer George 'Peckings' Price was one of the first to import the sound of the Caribbean to London. He set up a recording studio in Kingston, Jamaica, before moving to Shepherds Bush where he opened a shop in 142 Askew Road in 1972. Peckings Records is still a thriving business in its new location at 81 Askew Road, and is run by his two sons, Chris and Duke.



**7 Island Records  
22 St Peter's Square, W6**

Chris Blackwell, the founder of esteemed record label Island Records, brought the sound of Jamaica to Britain. In 1973, the growing label opened a small basement studio here in West London where artists such as Bob Marley and the Wailers and Steel Pulse recorded some of their most famous work.



**8 Riverside Studios  
101 Queen Caroline St, London W6 9BN**

Riverside Studios has been a film studio from 1933 to 1954, a BBC studio from 1954 to 1974 and an arts centre since 1976, presenting international theatre, dance, visual art, television, comedy and music.

In 2023 Riverside Studios ran the first large-scale exhibition of material from Riverside's own archive collection, Black and Gifted, that featured the pivotal role that it played in supporting artists like Dr Benjamin Zephaniah, Sir Lenny Henry, and Black Theatre Cooperative in the early 80s.



**9 Fulham Palace  
Bishop's Ave, London SW6 6EA**

Fulham Palace was the residence of the Bishop of London for over 1,300 years. It has a botanical garden and an historic house that is free to visit. Between 2023-24 it housed an exhibition called The Bishops of London, colonialism and transatlantic slavery: resistance.





# BLUE PLAQUES

As part of our commitment to commemorate and re-establish our Hidden Figures in our borough's history, since 2021 we have been putting up a series of plaques and commemorative paving stones at places where they lived or worked.

In just two years we have installed 10 plaques in total celebrating famous landmarks like Island Records and Greensleeves and a range of our famous residents from Edmonia Lewis to Louis Bruce. You can read all about them in our Historic Figures section on p.12-22.

All of our plaques and paving stones will now feature on one of our trails. Keep an eye out on our Celebrating H&F webpages for further helpful learning tools such as videos, articles and more.

If you know of anyone who used to live or work in the borough and deserves to be recognised alongside these figures, please email us at **heritage@lbhf.gov.uk**



## ACTIVITY

- With your class, friends or family, how many of our blue plaques can you find around the borough? Keep your eyes peeled when out shopping or playing! We would love you to send us a picture when you find one – bonus points if you're dressed up like that famous historic figure! Send your snaps to: **heritage@lbhf.gov.uk**



# FAMILY TREE





le

## ACTIVITY

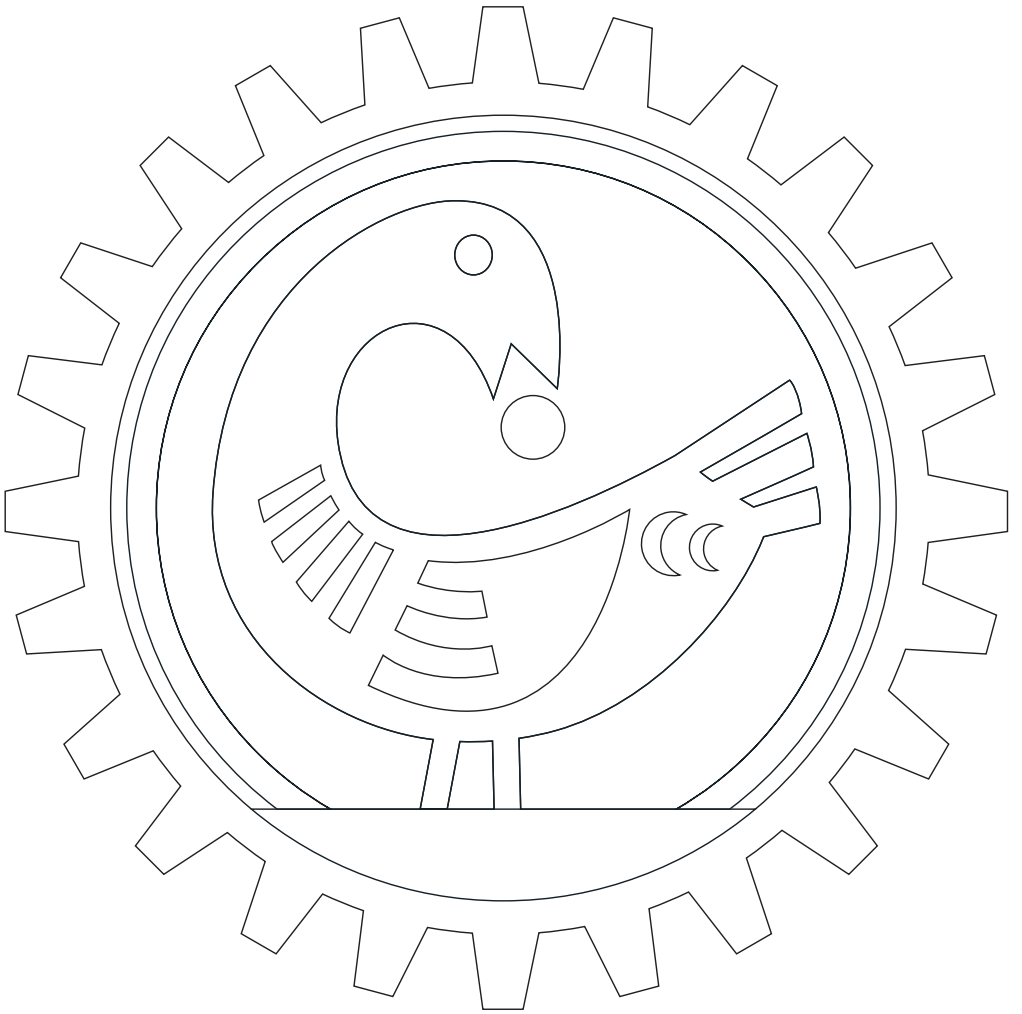
- **Can you draw your family tree?**
- **Put your parents below and keep going back to oldest relatives**
- Ask your parents for help and see how many people you can include.



## ACTIVITY

- For thousands of years, African peoples – often dancers – have used masks in ceremonies. These celebrate a wide range of things from a good harvest to a birthday celebration, and even funerals. Every mask is unique and tells a different story. They use a wide range of animals, colours and materials to create a special meaning.
- Have a go at creating your own unique mask using the template below!







# SANKOFA

## ACTIVITY

- The word Sankofa comes from the Akan people of Ghana.
- One of the Adinkra symbols for Sankofa depicts a mythical bird.
- Colour in the mythical bird symbol.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### **Design your own African Nation flag**

Africa is home to 54 countries, each one unique and rich in its own history. Explore the different colours and shapes popular with African countries and design your own flag – perhaps it'll be the next Wakanda!

### **Take a Selfie! (near the trails)**

We would love to see you while you're out and about on our trails. Take a photo with one of our plaques and send it in to us at [heritage@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:heritage@lbhf.gov.uk) to be featured on our website. Bonus points if you dress up as your favourite Hidden Figure!

### **Paint a picture (anywhere)**

Be inspired by Fanny Eaton and Edmonia Lewis and create a piece of art inspired by Black artists. Use an A5 piece of card and send it in to us to feature in our Black History Month art exhibitions. Contact [heritage@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:heritage@lbhf.gov.uk) for further information.

# WINDRUSH



On a cloudy Tuesday in June, 75 years ago, the HMT Empire Windrush completed its 8,000 mile crossing from the Caribbean to finally dock at Tilbury in Essex. On board were young men and women invited to help Britain recover from its labour shortage after the horrors of World War II. Many took up the invitation to work as nurses, midwives, ancillary workers, cleaners, cooks, and bus drivers.

Instead of a warm welcome these families were met with signs that read “No blacks!” and many times “No children!” They struggled to find places to live and when they did, living conditions were poor. Many families were forced to share beds and to cook their meals on landings. Despite this, they worked hard and left the slums behind to buy houses, start businesses and forge communities.

Later, this same Windrush generation would start up newspapers (West Indian World, The Voice) and introduce new musical tastes – ska, reggae, calypso, jazz funk, rock and pop – and bring new styles of dress, colour and vibrancy to a younger, wider audience of British people. They were also responsible for introducing Britain to some favourite dishes - rice and peas, jerk chicken, curry goat, roti and patties.

Unfortunately in 2013 the Windrush generation started receiving letters claiming that they had no right to be in the UK. Some were treated as illegal immigrants. Some lost jobs, homes, benefits and access to the NHS. Some of them were even placed in immigration detention centres and deported.

In Hammersmith & Fulham it is clear what an impact the Windrush

generation has had not only on Britain but on our borough. On 22 June 2023 we marked the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush by holding an event with music, dance and speeches on Shepherds Bush Green.

Local schools and other organisations performed in front of members of the Windrush Generation who were presented with a card from the Council Leader thanking them for their contributions and to show our support for their ongoing battles (pictures below).



Windrush 75 event in Shepherds Bush Green

# WHITE CITY ESTATE

The construction of the White City Estate began in the late 1930s and was finished after the Second World War. It is named after the White City Exhibition that took place on the site in 1908.

The estate was built by the London County Council. Twenty-three blocks were completed by the outbreak of the war, with the rest completed afterwards.

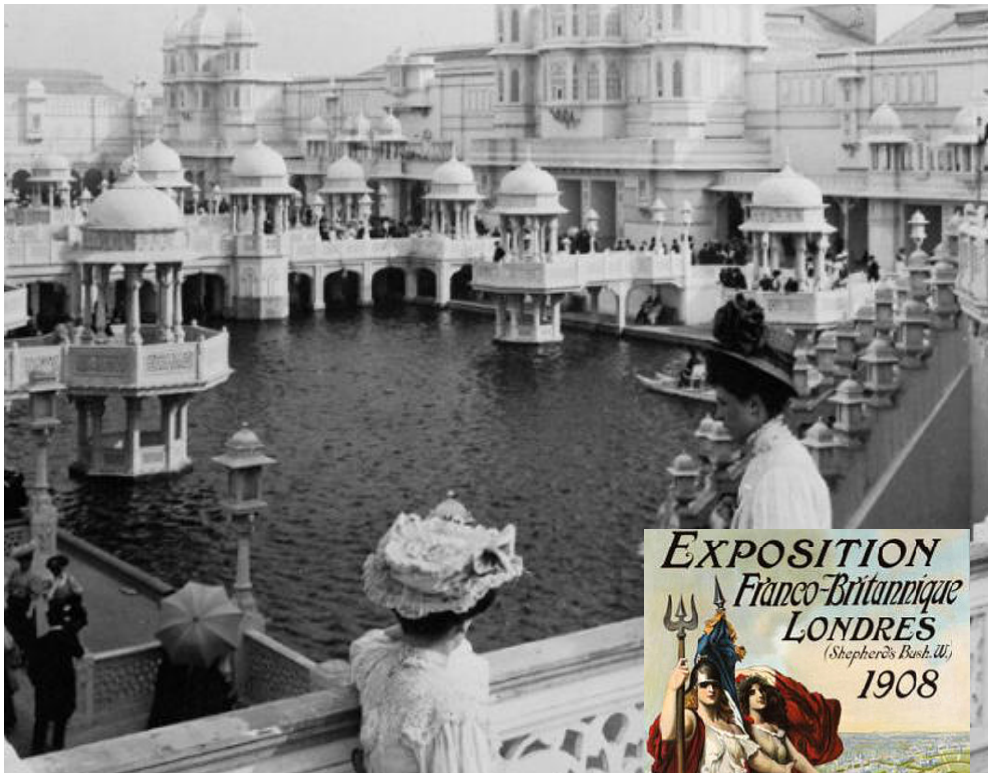
Most of the names of the buildings on the White City Estate are named after men who served the British Empire in various colonial settings – mainly in India.



'Aerial view of the White City Estate, Hammersmith' from The County of London Plan (1943) – showing the Estate as completed by 1939.







**The White City Exhibition of 1908** was a huge 200-acre site with palaces, halls, a stadium and canals. It looked very similar to Venice! The buildings were covered with white stucco (decorative plaster), but the name didn't just come from the exhibition's white buildings.

Entertainer Imre Kiralfy was the mastermind behind the project and 'borrowed' the White City name from Chicago.

The first exhibition was open from May to October 1908. It attracted more than eight million visitors and celebrated Britain's friendship with France after the signing of the Entente Cordiale in 1904.

Today, many of the roads in the area are named after Commonwealth countries that had displays at the White City Exhibition including South Africa Road, India Way, Bloemfontein Road, Loftus Road, Australia Road and New Zealand Way.

## 1908 Olympic Games

White City Estate once again became the site of great fame when in 1908 London was asked to host the Olympic Games. Originally meant to be hosted in Rome, in 1906 the Exhibition committee was approached by the organisers of the Olympics and asked if a stadium could be built to host the games by the summer of 1908. The committee agreed to pay for the stadium in return for three-quarters of the Games' receipts.

Designed by the engineer J. J. Webster and completed in 10 months by George Wimpey, the stadium was unveiled by King Edward VII on the 27th April 1908, just a few months before the games were due to start in July. After the Olympics the stadium was used for exhibitions, for the military to train during World War One, as a greyhound racing track, and to host the 1932 British Amateur Athletic Association events.



Today all that remains of the Olympic stadium is a commemorative wall displaying the number of medals won by different countries.

It was during these games that local resident Louis Bruce represented Great Britain. He competed as a heavyweight wrestler and was the oldest competitor in his sport at 32. Despite this, Louis finished fifth overall, reaching the second round of the 73kg freestyle division. It was recently discovered that Louis was the first Black Olympian to represent Great Britain, 12 years before the famous sprinter Harry Edward took part. Read more about him in our Hidden Figures section.

# LOCAL STUDIES & ARCHIVES

Thank you to the numerous residents and groups who have helped us get this far, including author Stephen Bourne and H&F Archivist Kath Shawcross.

## **Get in touch with the Local Studies & Archives**

Are you interested in tracing your family history, house history or researching the changes in your local area over the years? Whatever your interests, the staff and volunteers will be happy to assist your research, either in person at Hammersmith Library (pictured below) or via post or email.

The Hammersmith & Fulham Local Studies and Archives Centre holds the archives and local history collections for the borough, including documents, books, maps, photographs, old newspapers and other sources for family and local history. These records come from the council and its predecessor bodies, local institutions such as churches and schools, local businesses, local organisations and individuals.

**For more details, please visit: [www.lbhf.gov.uk/archives](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/archives)**



# THANK YOU

We hope you enjoyed the second edition of our Proud of Our Black History booklet. Many people work behind the scenes to continue the council's work on celebrating its deep connection to the Black community all year round and updating this booklet for you to continue learning.

We would like to take this moment to thank the following:

- Stephen Bourne, author of Black Poppies – Britain's Black Community and the Great War, for your research.
- Nubian Jak, for your continued support with the plaque project.
- Our residents who have welcomed plaques outside their homes.
- The Windrush Generation, for your insight.
- And the various researchers and authors of the booklet; Jess Harris-Edwards, Kath Shawcross, Gaverne Bennett, Geoff Cowart and Peter Parkin.

**There is only so much we can include in one booklet. So to find out more, please visit the H&F Council website for further resources and more information on our colourful history. Use the QR code below or visit: [lbhf.gov.uk/black-history-hf](https://lbhf.gov.uk/black-history-hf)**

