Don’t miss out on this October’s amazing events! Most events areFREE unless stated otherwise.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2019
Exploring the heritage and history of Southwark’s African, Caribbean and diaspora communities.

#BHM2019
FOREWORD

As the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities I am delighted to be able to introduce the programme of events to celebrate this year’s Black History Month in Southwark. This month is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the important cultural contribution the Black community has made, and continues to make, to both the culture of Southwark and our nation. The events are an excellent way to bring communities together and strengthen the social fabric of our amazing, diverse and vibrant borough.

This brochure contains events taking place throughout October across the width and length of the borough. From Borough in the north to Dulwich in the south, events will cater for all ages and provide a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities, held together by the common thread of Black History.

All events are free or low cost; so please get involved, engage and be inspired.

For more information on Black History Month or to download a copy of this brochure, visit www.southwark.gov.uk/BHM2019

A limited number of brochures are available from local libraries.

Councillor Rebecca Lury
Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities

Interview with author

ALEX WHEATLE

Alex Wheatle is the author of several novels, some of them set in Brixton, where he grew up.

Born in London of Jamaican parents, his first book, Brixton Rock (1999), tells the story of a 16-year old boy of mixed race in 1980s Brixton. Brixton Rock was adapted for the stage and performed at the Young Vic in 2010. Its sequel, Brenton Brown, was published in 2011.

His second novel, East of Acre Lane (2001), has a similar setting, and won a London Arts Board New Writers Award. A prequel, Island Songs, set in Jamaica, was published in 2005, and a sequel, Dirty South, in 2008 and this year he was awarded an MBE for services to literature.

In 2010, he wrote and toured the one-man autobiographical performance, Uprising. His play, Shame and Scandal, had its debut at the Albany Theatre, Deptford in October 2015. In 2016 Alex won the Guardian children’s fiction prize with his book Crongton Knights.

Why did you choose to write for young people 11 years and above?
Alex: It’s not easy as a UK Black man gaining a foothold in the adult literature world. In terms of profile, reviews, and recognition it can be extremely difficult. In 14 years writing adult fiction, I only received an invitation to a major literary festival once. I’ve always written about young people. You can change the thinking and mind-set of teenagers, with challenging narratives, more easily than with adults.

In what way do you think your early life experience at Shirley Oaks Children’s Home has influenced your writing?
Alex: My experience of Shirley Oaks is the major influence on all of my work. It taught me empathy. It taught me that there is a class below working class. And that class deserves its place in literature and a platform. Often this class is forgotten but I never will forget.

The theme of Black History Month 2019 is ‘A legacy of strength, a future of hope’. Is there a historic figure that embodies this for you?
Alex: Reggae music transformed me, and my sense of value, so I have to go back to the legendary Bob Marley. His lyrics moved me immensely; shook my whole foundation. There were other reggae artists too that I must mention; Dennis Brown, Gregory Isaacs, Sugar Minott, Jimmy Cliff and Johnny Osbourne. Reggae music made me believe I could contribute.

Over the years you have worked at several libraries - what do they mean to you?
Alex: Any progressive country that cares for its residents should have libraries in all its regions, especially the poorer communities. It’s a space where you can learn at any age and not have to pay a penny. It’s a space that was crucial for my own reading and writing development. The closure of libraries distresses me because it’s one of the most valuable resources in our communities.

What is next on your writing journey?
Alex: I’m working on a slave rebellion story based on a real historical incident that is set in Jamaica. All I can say is that while writing I found myself weeping.
EVENT LISTINGS

EVERY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY IN OCTOBER

Cultural Exchange Workshops on the Afro-Brazilian martial art Capoeira, and associated dances and rhythms, as well as public displays and artistic presentations to celebrate the fight for freedom of African slaves in Brazil.

Time: Fridays 5pm - 6pm for kids workshops, Wednesdays and Fridays 6pm - 7pm for adults workshops
Venue: Husky Studios, 29A Amelia Street, SE17 3P Y
Tickets: Please book your place by text, WhatsApp or email: E: community@culturalexchange.org.uk T: 07502 242 102 W: www.culturalexchange.org.uk

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Book Reading Fun for Kids
We celebrate inspirational scientific inventions and amazing people from African Caribbean and African American history. We will have crosswords, word searches and great books, from popular authors like Rachel Renee Russell and Malorie Blackman.

Time: 11am - 3pm or by appointment
Venue: Draper Hall, Hampton Street junction with Newington Butts SE17 3AN
E: info@drapertogether.org W: www.blackfriars-settlement.org.uk

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

The Bridge of Voices
All the World's a Stage exhibition
Photographs and interviews with British Black actors and playwrights. Commissioned by the Theatre@Draper Hall and curated by Nick Adele (The Stage) and Isabel Appio (The Voice).

In addition to these Draper Together events, there will be other BHM events, including screenings of African films followed by a Q&A, and the premiere of staged readings of Black playwrights directed by British theatre directors.

Time: 11am – 3pm or by appointment
Venue: Draper Hall, Hampton Street junction with Newington Butts SE17 3AN
E: info@drapertogether.org W: www.blackfriars-settlement.org.uk

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Poetry Workshops
Co-facilitated by a prominent Southwark based spoken word artist and our in-house published poet.

This culminates in an evening event featuring poetry performances, keynote speakers, Q&A, light refreshments, and fun.

spoken word afternoon workshops: Wednesdays 2, 9, 16, and 23 October
Evening event: Tuesday 29 October
Time: Weekly spoken word workshops: 2pm - 4pm
Evening event: 6pm - 9pm
Venue: Blackfriars Settlement, The Orb Space, 1 Rushworth Street London SE1 0RB
Tickets: Limited places for workshop. E: orbit@blackfriars-settlement.org.uk T: 020 7980 4628 (The Orb: Leila/Liz/Renuka) W: www.blackfriars-settlement.org.uk

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

African Connections
Three evenings exploring African connections. London history with Blue Badge Guide Kelly Foster; poetry performance with Jacob 5am-La Ros and drums from Mohamed Gueye, and African cinema with a guest speaker.

Monday 7 October
London History Talk 7pm - 8.30pm
Venue: Draper Hall, Hampton Street junction with Newington Butts SE17 3AN
Ticket Price: Up to £7. Book via Eventbrite
E: info@drapertogether.org W: www.real-black-panther.eventbrite.co.uk

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

5 OCTOBER
Black Panther the film - real African history and the books to prove it
Interactive audio-visual presentation with photos, art and trailers from the movie alongside quotes and interviews from the director, actors and writers, to illustrate the actual Black history shown in the film Black Panther.

Time: 7pm – 9pm
Venue: Draper Hall, Hampton Street junction with Newington Butts SE17 3AN
Ticket Price: Up to £7. Book via Eventbrite
E: info@drapertogether.org W: www.real-black-panther.eventbrite.co.uk

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Fostering
Could you make a difference to a child’s life? Caring, loving and patient Black parents are needed to support Black children in care. Whether it is to build your family or help children in your community – get in touch now.

Fostering – Tuesday 8 October, 6pm - 7.30pm
Adoption - Saturday 26 October, 11am - 1pm
Venue: Canada Water Library, 21 Surrey Quays Road, Rotherhithe, London, SE16 7AR
E: adoption@southwark.gov.uk T: 0800 952 0707 W: www.southwark.gov.uk/adoption

10 OCTOBER

Southwark LGBT Network presents... Ratifi
The Southwark LGBT Network will be showing the film Rafiki. Banned in Kenya for promoting lesbian romance, the screening will be followed by a Q&A with community leaders.

Time: 6pm - 9pm
Venue: Peckham Plex, 95A Rye Lane, Peckham, London SE15 4ST
T: 020 7231 6027 for Youth (BYAP) T: 020 7237 8930 for Learning and Disability activities
E: adoption@southwark.gov.uk T: 0800 952 0707 W: www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Information meetings on adoption and fostering
Could you make a difference to a child’s life? Caring, loving and patient Black parents are needed to support Black children in care. Whether it is to build your family or help children in your community – get in touch now.

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E: adoption@southwark.gov.uk T: 0800 952 0707 W: www.southwark.gov.uk/adoption

10 OCTOBER

The Jamaican Slaves Who Made Britain

A Black and British History: The Jamaican Slaves Who Abolished Slavery

Time: 10 October
Venue: Canada Water Library, 21 Surrey Quays Road, Rotherhithe, London, SE16 7AR
T: 020 7960 4628
E: admin@pegopera.org W: www.carolwhitewright.com

Author and trailblazing genealogist Paul Crooks tells of the forgotten history of the slaves who abolished slavery. Paul will also speak about his ancestors in the uprising, which ultimately brought the system of slavery to its knees.

Time: 6pm - 7.45pm
Venue: Dulwich Library, 368 Lordship Lane, SE22 8NB
Tickets: Book via Eventbrite
E: info@paulcrookuk.com W: www.jjas.eventbrite.co.uk

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Adoption

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E: adoption@southwark.gov.uk T: 0800 952 0707 W: www.southwark.gov.uk/adoption

10 OCTOBER

The Conquer

This experimental short film, directed by Peter Lowe, tackles feelings of racial prejudice and alienation, through the real life PhD thesis of TC Smith. The film will be followed by a discussion with the cast and director.

Time: 6.30pm – 7.45pm
Venue: Dulwich Library, 368 Lordship Lane, SE22 8NB
E: nell.cooper@southwark.gov.uk T: 020 7237 8930 W: www.southwark.gov.uk/events

T: 020 7237 8930 for Learning Disability activities
020 7231 6027 for Youth (BYAP) activities
w: www.bedehouse.org
w: www.blackfriars-settlement.org.uk
13 OCTOBER

**Mandela’s African Tales for Children**

**Research your Caribbean Family History Workshop**

Children will be supported to produce the props that will be used during the performance, followed by a hot meal (vegan option available). All included in the ticket price.

**Time:** 5pm - 8pm
**Venue:** Draper Hall, Hampton Street, SE17 3AN
**Tickets:** £6, concessions £4
W: www.mandela-tales.children.eventbrite.co.uk
E: info@drapertogether.org

**WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER**

**The Pocket History**

The Pocket History: an illustrated musical talk on London’s 18th century Black history. The evening will be a lively introduction to some of London’s most popular characters of all classes, told through song. This event will be BSL interpreted.

**Time:** 7pm
**Venue:** The Prince of Peckham Pub, 1 Clayton Road, London SE15 5JA
W: wwww.italluminated-arts.com
E: melissajo@illluminated-arts.com

**FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER**

**Iroko Theatre Storytelling**

Join Iroko Theatre Company for a story and workshop full of music, play and performance, involving drumming, dancing and singing. Iroko is a dynamic traditional African theatre company. Suitable for ages 5 to 11.

**Time:** 5.45pm
**Venue:** Dulwich Wood Primary School, Bowen Drive, Dulwich, SE21 8NS
**Tickets:** No ticket required - first come first served.
E: ketracommunity@gmail.com
E: friendsofiwp@gmail.com

**19 OCTOBER**

**HIP HOP with Kloe Dean**

An upbeat, fun, yet informative session journeying through Hip Hop foundations, developing variations textures and performance techniques, which will be utilised in both choreography and freestyle throughout the session.

**Time:** 11am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 3.30pm
**Venue:** Peckham Library, 122 Peckham Hill Street, SE15 5JR
**Tickets:** Book by emailing name(s) and age(s) of those attending. Or inform a member of staff at Peckham Library.  
E: learning@linnean.org
W: www.southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk

**19 OCTOBER**

**The Linnean Society of London Presents: Unsung Black Scientists**

Come and join us for this exciting pintmaking workshop! Participants will discover a range of natural historians, past and present, with emphasis on Black and minority scientists. Finished work can be submitted to the Linnean Society Biomedical Metcalf Down competition, with a chance to win prizes for artistic and scientific merit. Suitable for ages 7 to 14 years, parents and carers.

**Time:** 6.30pm - 7.50pm
**Venue:** Camberwell Green SE5
E: Southwark.libraries@southwark.gov.uk
W: www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

12 OCTOBER

**Culture Tree Centre celebrates Black History Month**

A special African drumming and traditional storytelling event. Join us for a fun day of drumming, singing, dancing and storytelling.

**Time:** 12 noon - 4pm
**Venue:** Culture Tree Centre, 163 Commercial Way, London SE15 1AU
**Tickets:** www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/culturetree-centre-celebrates-black-history-month-tickets-67528953919
E: culturetreeeuk@gmail.com
W: www.culturetreeuk.com

**South by South: film screening of Dovan Jou Ka Leve (The Sun Will Rise)**

A screening of Dovan Jou Ka Leve (The Sun Will Rise) directed by Gessica Nguema, followed by a panel discussion focusing on issues around mental health, maternal relationships and religious struggles explored within the film.

**Time:** 4pm - 6pm
**Venue:** South London Gallery, Clore Studio, 65-67 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UH  
T: 020 7703 6120
W: www.southlondongallery.org

21 - 27 OCTOBER

**Black History Month 2019**

Various times
**Venue:** Peckham Hill Street, SE15 5JR
W: www.theatrepeckham.co.uk
E: info@theatrepeckham.co.uk
T: 020 7708 5401
K: adminassist@theatrepeckham.co.uk
W: www.theatrepeckham.co.uk

**22 OCTOBER**

**Screening and talk with David Olusoga about his documentary The Unwanted: The Secret Windrush Files**

The Windrush scandal saw legitimate British citizens cast as illegal immigrants. David Olusoga uses secret files to reveal how, for Caribbean migrants, this was 70 years in the making. Q&A follows.

**Time:** 7.30pm - 9.15pm
**Venue:** Draper Hall, Hampton Street junction with Newington Butts SE17 3AN
**Tickets:** £5 or £10 depending on the activity
E: adminassist@theatrepeckham.co.uk
T: 020 7708 5401
W: www.theatrepeckham.co.uk

**22 OCTOBER**

**The Herero Genocide**

Vasco Stevenson will be giving a talk on the Herero genocide after Germany gained control of the area that is now Namibia. This event will be held on the first day of Black History Month. Suitable for ages 11 to 16 years old.

**Time:** 5.30pm - 7.30pm
**Venue:** Dulwich Library, 368 Lordship Lane, SE22 8NB
W: www.southwark.gov.uk/events
LATE OCTOBER
Way Back When...
A playful storytelling performance and workshop for families, created by Blue Elephant Theatre. Weaving together African and Caribbean folklore and factual history, Way Back When... celebrates the efforts of previous generations, finding inspiration for today.

Tuesday 22 October – Peckham Library, 2pm
Venue: Peckham Library, 5th Floor, Children’s Pod, 122 Peckham Hill Street, SE15 5JR

Saturday 26 October – Blue Elephant Theatre, 11.30am
Venue: Blue Elephant Theatre, 59a Bethwin Road, SE5 0XT

Saturday 26 October – Brandon Library, 2pm
Venue: Brandon Library, Maddock Way, Cooks Road, SE17 3NH

T: 020 7701 0100
E: info@blueelephanttheatre.co.uk
W: www.blueelephanttheatre.co.uk

25 OCTOBER
Southwark Everywoman’s Centre presents Black History Month
Join us for a day of stories of heroes from Black History, workshops on healthy living, and a display of traditional African dresses and clothes.

Time: 11am to 4pm
Venue: Cambridge House, Camberwell Road, London SE5 0HF
E: zahraabdall@yahoo.com
T: 07572 249 881 or 07986 994 074
W: www.southwarkeverywomanscentre.org

26 OCTOBER
Our Future, Our Hopes
Young people from across Southwark share what Black History means to them, in terms of legacy, but also their hopes and aspirations for the future.

Time: 2pm – 3pm
Venue: Southwark Playhouse
E: boxoffice@southwarkplayhouse.co.uk
T: 020 7407 0234
W: www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

26 OCTOBER
Draper Voices: documentary celebrating BME residents on the Draper Estate
Draper Voices is a documentary collection of BME residents’ experiences of living on the Draper estate in Elephant and Castle.

Time: 5pm – 5:30pm
Venue: Draper Hall, Hampton Street junction with Newington Butts SE17 3AN
Tickets: Please reserve
E: info@drapertogether.org
W: www.drapertogether.org

26 OCTOBER
Standing on the shoulders of giants: the Bristol Bus Boycott Musical
A short musical, inspired by the Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963, which arose when the Bristol Omnibus Company refused to employ Black or Asian people in their driving crews.

Time: 4pm – 5:30pm
Venue: Draper Hall, Hampton Street junction with Newington Butts, SE17 3AN
Tickets: Please reserve your seat
E: info@drapertogether.org
W: www.bristol-bus-musical.eventbrite.co.uk

UP TO SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER
Anansi the Spider
Long ago, the cleverest of the animal kingdom was the spider, the infamous Anansi. But sometimes the spider hoaxter could be a little too clever for his own good.

Weekend and weekday performances available. See website for times.

Venue: The Unicorn Theatre, 147 Tooley Street, London SE1 2HZ
Tickets: Under 18s: £10 to £14 Adults: £10 to £20
E: boxoffice@unicorntheatre.com
T: 020 7645 0560
W: www.unicorntheatre.com/Anansi

30 OCTOBER
A Legacy of Hope Celebration
Our Legacy of Hope event celebrates the achievements of Southwark residents from BME communities. Come and enjoy a day of fun activities and raise mental health awareness.

Time: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Damiliola Taylor Community Centre, 1 East Surrey Grove, SE15 6DR
E: help@sportingrecovery.org.uk
T: 0300 030 1233
W: www.hope-celebration.eventbrite.co.uk