



**Black, Asian and Minority  
Ethnic Network**

# **Black History Month programme**

**October 2020**



Essex County Council

# Introduction

**October marks Black History Month; first launched in the UK in 1987, Black History Month is the annual celebration of the history, achievements and contributions of black people in the UK.**

Now more than ever before, marking Black History Month is important, especially given the recent events: the death of George Floyd in America in May 2020, the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 by ethnic minority people and the subsequent Black Lives Matter protests that have taken place around the world.

As an organisation, we recognise that achieving change will take time. We are committed to creating an environment where we stand up to racism and where we in Essex, create a safer and fairer society for everyone.

We are proud to support the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Network (BAMEN) in putting a range of events and activities for all employees to take place and we encourage employees to participate listen, ask questions, share, understand and speak up.

**Cllr David Finch**, Leader of Essex County Council  
**Gavin Jones**, Chief Executive of Essex County Council

**The Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Network (BAMEN) is pleased to present the Black History Month 2020 programme.**

**Yvonne Jokogbola**

Chair of the Essex County Council's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Network (BAMEN)

**“ Our colleagues, our community, us, it affects us all and we should all care and stand up. ”**

**#BlackLivesMatter**

Essex County Council, BAMEN member

# Calendar of events

# October 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
-	-	-	<b>1 Film:</b> Black Sheep	<b>2 Talk:</b> Black Sheep, Cornelius Walker 12pm-1pm	<b>3 Event:</b> Harlow Black History Festival	<b>4 Film:</b> Black is King
<b>5 Talk:</b> From Sickle Cell to Seacole, Professor Dame Elizabeth Anionwu 12pm-1pm	<b>6 *Talk:</b> LearnFest Keynote speaker: Inclusion before Diversity, Shereen Daniels 2pm-3pm	<b>7 TV series:</b> BBC – Black British History We're Not Taught in Schools	<b>8 Podcast:</b> BBC Radio 4, You're Dead To Me – Mansa Musa	<b>9 Talk:</b> Black British Female Activists, Renee Apuku 12pm-1pm	<b>10 Film:</b> The Black Panther	<b>11 TV Series:</b> Channel 4, gal-dem presents: Black British History
<b>12 Talk:</b> The Black Panther Movie Breakdown, Andrew Muhammad 12pm-1.30pm	<b>13 Panel Discussion:</b> The Art of Black Hair, Ife & Chils 12pm-1pm	<b>14 Talk:</b> Women's Network: Guest Speaker – Pam Parkes 12pm-1pm	<b>15 Talk:</b> The Black Image over the centuries, Black History Walks 12pm-1.30pm	<b>16 Watch Party and Discussion:</b> Culture and Identity 4pm-5pm	<b>17 Exhibition:</b> Phenomenal Women at Southbank Centre	<b>18 Podcast:</b> BBC Radio 4 The Food Programme – Food and the legacy of slavery
<b>19 Talk:</b> Talk: The Black experience in the rural idyllic, Tayo 12pm-1pm	<b>20 Talk:</b> Black People in TV & the media, Mary Stretch 12pm-1pm	<b>21 TV Show:</b> Channel 4, The Talk	<b>22 *Talk:</b> Listening Forum 3.30pm-5pm	<b>23 *Caribbean cook along</b> with Chloe / Rochelle 10am-12pm	<b>24 TV series:</b> Netflix, Top Boy	<b>25 Video:</b> African Storytelling with Storie Storie
<b>26 Talk:</b> Age and Race – Entrepreneurship in Young Black Minds 12pm-1pm	<b>27 Talk:</b> Black Mental Health – Meg Zeenat Wamithi 12pm-1pm	<b>28 Talk:</b> Black Pound Day, Florence Adepoju 12pm-1pm	<b>29 Talk:</b> African British Civil Rights Heroes, Black History Walks 12pm-1.30pm	<b>30 TV Series:</b> Channel 4, Take Your Knee Off My Neck	<b>31 Exhibition:</b> Tilbury Walkway of Memories	-

\*Events are only open to Essex County Council employees



# Event details

**1 October**

**Short Film: Black Sheep (2019)**

Oscars 2019 Short Documentary Nominee, Black Sheep tells the story of Cornelius Walker, who moved out of London with his family, suddenly found himself living on a white estate run by racists. But rather than fight them, Cornelius decided to become more like the people who hated him.

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**2 October**

**Talk: Black Sheep, Cornelius Walker**

Cornelius Walker, a Director and Film-maker, talks about his upbringing, experiences of racism growing up as a young person in Essex as documented in the short film Black Sheep and his career thus far.

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**3 October**

**Event: Harlow Black History Festival**

Black History Month will be celebrated with a feast of activities in Harlow Museum organised by PATACC (Performing Arts in Traditional African and Caribbean Cultures).

**4 October**

**Film: Black is King (2020)**

Beyoncé's Black is King is a visual album reimagining of the story of The Lion King, celebrating the beauty and richness of the African diaspora.

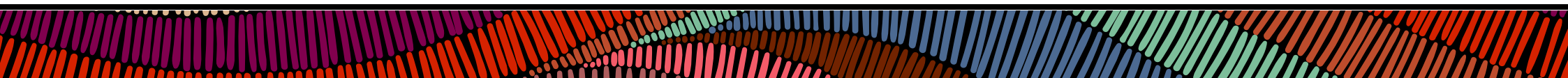
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**5 October**

**Talk: From Sickle Cell to Seacole,  
Professor Dame Elizabeth Anionwu**

Professor Dame Elizabeth Anionwu is a retired nurse, campaigner and Emeritus Professor of Nursing at the University of West London. She talks about her upbringing and experience in Social Care, her professional experiences working as a Nurse and later in Sickle Cell research and later campaigning for a statue of Mary Seacole.

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## Event details

**6 October**

### **Talk, LearnFest Keynote Speakers – Inclusion before Diversity, Shereen Daniels**

As the Managing Director of strategy consultancy HR rewired, Shereen Daniels has been described as the leading voice in promoting equity and equality for black people in the workplace. Her talk will focus on Black Lives Matter and diversity and inclusion.

\* Event open to Essex County Council employees only

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**7 October**

### **TV Series: BBC, Black British History We're Not Taught in Schools**

Writer and historian David Olusoga introduces a series of short films exploring critical moments in Black British history that we're not taught in schools.

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**8 October**

### **Podcast, BBC Radio 4, You're Dead To Me – Mansa Musa**

In the You're Dead to Me podcast, Greg Jenner talks to Dr Gus Casely-Hayford and comedian Athena Kugblenu about Mali's Mr Money, Mansa Musa, the 14th Century emperor of the Mali Empire and the richest person who ever lived.

**9 October**

### **Talk: Black British Female Activists, Renee Kapuku**

Renee Kapuku is a writer, educator and entrepreneur who has received several awards including named a top 20 Rare Rising star and a future leader by the Powerlist Foundation. Co-hosted with Essex County Council's Women's Network, her talk explores the stories of the past pioneering Black British women we should all know.

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**10 October**

### **Film: Black Panther (2018)**

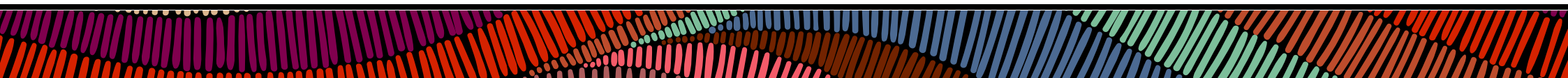
Black Panther is a 2018 superhero film based on the Marvel Comics superhero, where T'Challa who, after the death of his father, the King of Wakanda, returns home to the isolated, technologically advanced African nation to succeed to the throne and take his rightful place as king.

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**11 October**

### **TV Series: Channel 4, gal-dem presents: Black British History**

Channel 4 and gal-dem, a media publication committed to telling stories of women and non-binary people of colour collaborated to produce a series of short films that ask provocative questions of what it is to be Black British today.





## Event details

**12 October**

### **Talk: The Black Panther Movie Breakdown, Andrew Muhammad**

'The Investigator' Andrew Muhammad is one of the UK's leading Black history and culture specialists. He breaks down the ideologies, histories and subtext of Marvel's Black Panther Movie.

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**13 October**

### **Panel Discussion: The Art of Black Hair, Ife & Chils**

Afros are labeled "too political". Locks are deemed "unacceptable". Even our natural curls and kinks are called "unruly" and braids deemed "unprofessional". After hundreds of years, some people still can't seem to untangle Black hair from these harmful stereotypes. Ife Olonade and Chileleko Osazuwa open up a panel discussion to unpack 'The Art of Black Hair' and how something as natural and innocuous as our hair could be considered "good" or bad?

**14 October**

### **Talk: Women's Network Guest Speaker, Pam Parkes**

Pam Parkes, Director for Organisation Development, People and Service Transformation will be joining the Women's Network for a Q&A. She will talk about her career so far then answer questions from the audience.

**Email:** [Womens.Network@Essex.gov.uk](mailto:Womens.Network@Essex.gov.uk) for more information.

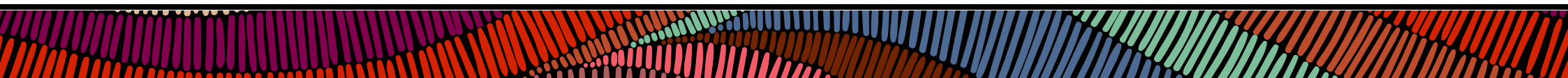
\* Event open to Essex County Council employees only

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**15 October**

### **Talk: The Black Image over the centuries, Black History Walks**

Black History Walks is a collective of professionals, teachers, authors and film-makers who collaborate to produce events, courses and resources on Black history in the UK. This talk shows how the image of African people has been deliberately altered by Europeans to show negativity. In the 15th century African people were portrayed in European art as noble, sophisticated and intelligent. With the rise of Empire these images were thrown out and replaced with demeaning stereotypes which still inform public opinion via children's books and Hollywood movies.





## Event details

**16 October**

### **Watch Party and Discussion, Culture and Identity**

Join us as we have a watch party and discussion on the short film 'Entitled' by Adeyemi Michael, which reimagines his mother's idea of moving from Nigeria to Peckham, London and her experience as a first-generation immigrant. Participants are encouraged to dress up in their traditional cultural attire.

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**17 October**

### **Exhibition: Phenomenal Women at Southbank Centre, London**

The Southbank Centre presents the first-ever public exhibition to honour Britain's Black female professors. The exhibition results from the work of Dr Rollock who undertook academic research examining the career experiences and strategies of Black female professors at UK universities over the past three years. The portraits were taken by photographer Bill Knight, who travelled across England, Scotland and Wales to capture the images.

**18 October**

### **Podcast: BBC Radio 4, The Food Programme – Food and the legacy of slavery**

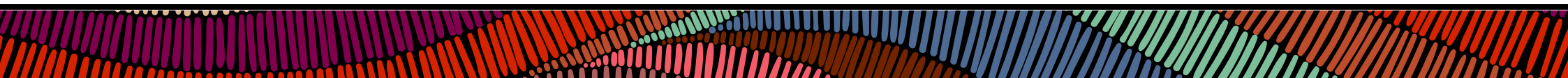
The episode explores the hidden story of slavery in our food. From tea, coffee, chocolate, all were ingredients made possible with slavery.

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**19 October**

### **Talk: The Black experience in the rural idyllic, Tayo**

Tayo 'The Five to Nine Traveller' is a travel and culture blogger, keen mountaineer and hiker. Her talk explores the experiences of Black people in the countryside, rural areas and predominantly white spaces where they are typically seen as outsiders or out of place.





## Event details

**20 October**

**Talk: Black People in TV & the media,  
Mary Stretch**

**Why aren't there more of us and what difference would it make to the TV we watch?**

Mary Stretch, Director of Hutton House Recruitment, is Unilever marketer and former BBC TV Presenter, Producer and Current Affairs TV Reporter. Her talk explores why there is a lack of diversity on our TV screens and what difference it makes to the TV we watch.

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**21 October**

**TV Show: Channel 4, The Talk**

Well-known Black Britons share their poignant, funny and emotional experiences of the conversations parents have to help their children face racism.

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**22 October**

**Talk: Listening Forum**

The session is a psychologically safe environment for the voices of the under-represented Black employees within ECC to talk about the issues that affect them and for all employees to hear and understand their experiences.

\* Event open to Essex County Council employees only

**23 October**

**Caribbean cook along with Chloe and Rochelle**

Join Chloe and Rochelle for a virtual cook along and learn how to cook some classical Caribbean dishes. Booking required.

\* Event open to Essex County Council employees only

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**24 October**

**TV Series: Netflix, Top Boy**

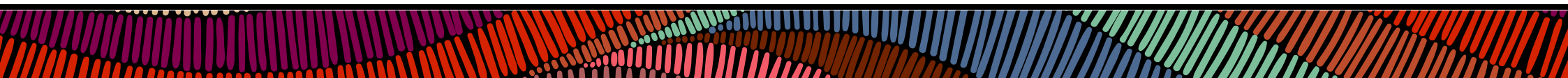
Top Boy is a British TV series that televises the lives of people of colour from underprivileged inner-city areas of East London. The show unpacks gang culture, immigration as experienced by African families and the pressures that first and second generational youth face. The show also highlights the discrimination that young black men experience with the police.

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**25 October**

**Video: African Storytelling**

Storie Storie is an organisation that works with education and corporate institutions to inspire through engaging storytelling workshops and motivational talks. Their presentation is a preservation of African traditions and culture of storytelling.







## Event details

**26 October**

### **Talk: Age and Race. Entrepreneurship in Young Black Minds**

Being a young black man in Essex, a predominantly white county can be a challenge. However, some people have used this to stand out. Daniel, founder of Seventh Tier, a lifestyle brand dedicated to showcasing the life of young creatives is doing just that. A conversation with the Essex County Council's Young Persons' Network explores entrepreneurship with young black creatives in Essex.

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**27 October**

### **Talk: Black Mental Health, Meg Zeenat Wamithi**

Meg Zeenat Wamithi is a revolutionary young leader and director of My Mind Matters Too, an innovation hub which connects 16-25-year-olds with resources, services and content to help them live mentally healthier lives. She talks about the importance of tackling mental health, especially among young people.

**28 October**

### **Talk: Black Pound Day, Florence Adepoju**

Black Pound Day? UK rapper Swiss created Black Pound Day in order to celebrate black-owned businesses and support the growth of the UK Black economy.

Florence Adepoju is an innovative cosmetic scientist and owner of MDM Flow and Flow Beauty Co. From formulating her own lipsticks, foundation and mascaras, she is pioneering the face of inclusivity in beauty and technology. Her vision is for “every woman to walk into the store and have as many options as everybody else”.


**Website:** <https://blackpoundday.uk/>

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**29 October**

### **Talk: African British Civil Rights Heroes, Black History Walks**

Black History Walks is a collective of professionals, teachers, authors and film-makers who collaborate to produce events, courses and resources on Black history in the UK. This talk explores the struggles of Black British civil rights heroes, illustrating how their efforts have been overshadowed by the focus on American civil rights history in the classroom. The talk gives recognition to the achievements of Black people born or residing in Britain who fought against British racism over the last 400 years.





## Event details

**30 October**

### **Channel 4, Take Your Knee Off My Neck**

A series of short films broadcasted by Channel 4 in response to the killing of George Floyd in the US, it explores its impact on black Britons, as told by black British filmmakers.

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**31 October**

### **Exhibition: Tilbury Walkway Of Memories**

The artist EVEWRIGHT has created Tilbury Bridge Walkway of Memories, a unique outdoor art installation at Tilbury Cruise Terminal between September - October 2020. The bridge will be a memory walk of images and documents installed on 552 panes of glass representing the lives of Windrush pioneers and descendants. The installation features a soundscape of new and existing audio stories that visitors can download on to their devices using QR codes. The Tilbury Bridge installation will be used as a backdrop to a series of live performances from selected artistic practitioners curated by Artist EVEWRIGHT. The theme of 'Transition for renewal' will be explored through experimental drawing, sound, movement, and words.


### **Essex Library Services – Reading is a powerful tool**

Books can help us understand our history and process the world we find ourselves in. Reading can be a powerful tool to build an understanding of self and empathy.

Essex Library Services has been listening and seeking advice on the best fiction and non-fiction books to buy. We want people see themselves represented in the books in our libraries, celebrate BAME authors and artists and to provide books to help people understand more about race, racism and experiences of racism,

You can borrow from our [booklists](#) from our libraries or go online to take out an e-book or listen to e-audio titles. There's a mix of fiction, non-fiction and titles for all ages including children and young adults. We've got e-comics and DVDs too.

We'll also be sharing short reviews of some of these titles on our [YouTube](#) channel and social media.



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**Essex County Council**  
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**Ethnic Network**

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