



Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Employee Network

Black History Month programme

October 2021



Essex County Council

Introduction

In October, the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Employee Network are collaborating with Essex Libraries and Essex County Council, to mark Black History Month.

Black History Month is an annual celebration of the history, achievements and contributions of black people in the UK, first launched in 1987. It's also a time for continued action to tackle racism, inequality, reclaim and ensure Black history is represented and celebrated.

Inspired by the 2020 Black Lives Matter events, the theme for Black History Month is 'Proud To Be'.

Catherine Ross, Editor at *Black History Month UK*, explained why they are launching the campaign:

"We wanted the theme of Black History Month 2021 to focus on celebrating being Black or Brown, and to inspire and share the pride people have in their heritage and culture – in their own way, in their own words.

"By asking people to share what they are Proud To Be we can share both individual stories and the vast richness of diversity that Black and Brown people bring to the UK."

We hope you enjoy this year's events.

Beverley Simms, Chair of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Employee Network

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

#BlackLivesMatter

Essex County Council, BAMEN member

Event details

Friday 1 October, 1pm to 2pm

In Conversation with Historian David

Olusoga

David Olusoga is a British-Nigerian historian, broadcaster and film-maker. His most recent TV series include *Empire* (BBC 2), *Black and British: A Forgotten History* (BBC 2), *The World's War* (BBC 2), 3 seasons of *A House Through Time* (BBC 2) and the BAFTA winning *Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners* (BBC 2).

David is also the author of *Black & British: A Forgotten History* which was awarded both the *Longman-History Today Trustees Award* and the *PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize*. His other books include *The World's War*, which won *First World War Book of the Year* in 2015, *The Kaiser's Holocaust: Germany's Forgotten Genocide and the Colonial Roots of Nazism* and *Civilizations: Encounters and the Cult of Progress*.

David was also a contributor to the *Oxford Companion to Black British History* and writes for *The Guardian* and is a columnist for *The Observer* and *BBC History Magazine*. He is also one of the three presenters on the BBC's landmark Arts series *Civilizations*.

Last year he held an exclusive interview with former President of the United States, Barack Obama and his recent book *Black and British: A Short, essential*

history won the Children's Illustrated & Non-Fiction book of the year at the 2021 British Book Awards

David will be in conversation with Beverley Simms, Chair of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Employee Network.



Event details

Wednesday 27 October, 12pm to 1pm **In Conversation with Storyteller Alim** **Kamara**

Alim Kamara is a British-Sierra Leonean rapper and storyteller. As a child living in Sierra Leone, Alim would listen to Djelis (storytellers), admiring the way they weaved lessons through their tales. He set up *Storie Storie* to inspire through engaging storytelling workshops and performances based on these traditional Sierra-Leonean folk tales.

Alim will talk about his heritage, identity, career, and work. The talk will also feature a recording of Alim bringing to life a traditional folktale called 'Anansi and Madam Fire'.



Event details

Friday 29 October, 12pm to 1pm

'What were Black people doing in World War One?' by Black History Walks

Black History Walks is a collective of professionals, teachers, authors and film-makers who collaborate to deliver delivers public talks, all year long.

This talk is an explanation of the crucial role Africa, Asia and the Caribbean played in World War 1. It includes interviews with Jamaican World War 1 veterans, West India Regiment in Palestine, Black and Asian fighter pilots, the Herero genocide, German colonies in Africa and how that affected geography and World War 2.



Other events

Essex Library Services – Proud To Be Reading

A good book gives you the potential to learn something new about yourself, the world you're in, and the people around you.

Essex Library Services are proud to be learning more and trying harder to bring inclusivity into our services and books. We want everyone to feel represented by the books on our library shelves and share stories from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

Black History Month is a time for education in race and racism, for celebration of black people and for pride in culture and heritage – we can't wait to highlight some brilliant stories this month and to continue doing so throughout the year.

Check out our booklists, which have a great selection of fiction and non-fiction titles for children, young adults and adults. You can borrow these books from your library, or head online and immerse yourself in an e-book or e-audio.

For reviews and discussions of these books, make sure to follow our social media and YouTube page where we have collated a playlist of videos relating to these titles.



Other events

Tilbury Bridge Walkway of Memories art installation

Tilbury Bridge Walkway of Memories is an art and sound installation conceived by Artist EVEWRIGHT. It is the first site-specific art and sound installation to be held at the Port of Tilbury in Essex and the UK dedicated to people of the Windrush Generation.

It is an immersive visual art experience, installed on 432 panes of glass collaged with photographs, documents, original boat passenger tickets and memorabilia. The artwork is installed in an original passenger walkway 55 metres long. As you walk through, you can listen to audio stories about the lives of some of the elders whose images are featured in the installation.

Tilbury Port is an iconic location which has an historic significance to the black community in Britain. They passed through this location as one of the original walkways where SS Empire Windrush passengers, in



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1948 arrived. Although many arrived before 1948, those that arrived here were the first large post war wave of British colonial citizens to disembark from the passenger ship at Tilbury Cruise Terminal.

This installation features over 130 people from the Windrush era and their families through photographs, documents and audio, telling stories in their own words of their arrival, the lives and families they created and their contribution to British society. This artwork and soundscape are symbolic and a testimony to those that arrived on SS Empire Windrush and the many that followed that journey to the UK.

In October as part of Black History Month, there will be guided tours with Artist EVEWRIGHT. Outside of these tours, the venue will remain open to the general public for self-guided tours. Keep up to date on the latest information by following us on our social media sites or visit our [website](#) to sign up to our newsletter.

About the artists

Evewright Arts Foundation (EAF) is a not for profit voluntary community organisation. We are passionate to seek out, find and preserve valuable untold stories from marginalised Black communities and present them in informal settings in an innovative and engaging way bringing hard to reach young and older generations together. We value the importance of our community telling their stories in their own voice.



This information is issued by:
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