Each year, Black History Month is celebrated in Kirklees but due to the coronavirus outbreak many of this year’s events will be held virtually. We have produced for you an event booklet with the details of various events that have been organised by community groups and individuals, local organisations and Kirklees Council.

Throughout October

Exhibition: No Ordinary Time

2020: the start of a new decade, for many a chance to refresh, reset and renew. Instead we find ourselves battling two deadly global pandemics – COVID-19 and systemic racism. This digital exhibition captures life for the African-Caribbean community in Kirklees during this incomparable time and asks what the lasting impact of 2020 on our communities and young people will be. No Ordinary Time explores race, power and trust through documentary photography taken in Kirklees during the easing of lockdown and is supplemented by images highlighting the impact on young people through their own lens.

Where: Online
Book a place: Online at The Lawrence Batley Theatre webpage www.theblt.org/whats-on
Contact for more details: Cathryn.pike@kirklees.gov.uk

‘Welcome to the Motherland!’ Exhibition Goes Digital!

Kirklees Museums and Galleries are digitising this much-loved exhibition in time for Black History Month so that you will be able to view it at your leisure and from the comfort of your own home.

Where: Online
Book a place: Click on the link or type it into a web browser to view the exhibition https://kirkleesmotherland.blogspot.com/
Contact for more details: Cathryn.pike@kirklees.gov.uk

Workshops for Permanent Black History Mural Wall

These workshops are going to involve people in the design of a black history mural in Sheepridge. The workshops will be led by a professional mural artist and will make sure the artwork captures the diversity, creativity and positivity of our area. All will be welcome. Look out on our social media for further details.

Where: Online
Book a place: Watch them on the Local Services 2 You Facebook page
Contact for more details: melissa@ls2y.co.uk

Every weekday in October except Wednesdays

Family History Archive Surgery

Are you interested in finding out more about your past, or the history of your family, your street or community? Then we’d love to help you at the archive service! At West Yorkshire Archive Service Kirklees we hold the records of local councils, schools, churches, businesses, social clubs, societies, families and much more. Contact us now to arrange your free archive surgery and we’ll help you discover archives that relate to you, your family and your local area.

Where: Over the phone
Book a place: contact us, call 0113 535 0150, or email kirklees@wyjs.org.uk to arrange a convenient time for your phone surgery
Contact for more details: 0113 535 0150 or kirklees@wyjs.org.uk

Sunday 4 October

Shakespeare and Race

Every Sunday in October 2020, Conscious Youth are pleased to announce ‘Conscious Hour’, a series of black history webinars in partnership with Narrative Eye. The series consists of four educational webinars designed for those aged 12+ and ideal for family viewing. We invite you to watch this engaging series with the opportunity to ask questions.

Join historian, Dr Onyeka Nubia, to examine Shakespeare’s other countrymen and the significance of their story in Tudor England. Discuss the presence and status of Africans in 15th and 16th century Europe. We will identify some of the African characters featured in Renaissance literature and evaluate why the inclusion of African people in Shakespeare’s writing is so important to us today.

Time: 5pm
Where: Online
Book a place: Open streaming webinar on Conscious Youth platforms. Facebook and YouTube @ConsciousYouthUK
Contact for more details: hello@consciousyouth.co.uk or 07498 043637

Thursday 6 October

Testament: Exploring the Origins of RAP… They’re Closer than You Think!

LAL! (Library Adventures Live) is a magnificent online programme of events for children aged 4 – 11 which will be featuring ‘Testament’ an acclaimed rapper and world record holding human beatboxer.

Fresh from appearances on Radio 1 and a guest slot on Blue Peter - Testament explores the Origins of Hip-Hop. From Bronx, NY all the way to Huddersfield, W1! Including U.K. Hip-hop and Grime we see today.

Testament will reveal that Rap has its roots surprisingly close to home. Listen from an expert how to write your own rap verse!

Time: 11am - 12pm
Where: Online
Book a place: Watch them on the Kirklees Libraries Facebook page
Contact for more details: amanda.ambler@kirklees.gov.uk
Sunday 11 October

Black Inventors

Did you know that Shirley Ann Jackson’s ground-breaking research enabled the invention of the touch tone telephone, fibre optic cables, and the technology behind caller ID and call waiting? Philip Emeagwali (photo below) is one of the greatest computer pioneers of our time. In 1989 he put his ideas to work and used 65,000 processess to invent the world’s first supercomputer. These are just a few of the amazing inventions that have been brought to us by black scientists and inventors over the years – inventions that have really changed our world for the better.

Time: 5pm
Where: Online
Book a place: Open streaming webinar on Conscious Youth platforms. Facebook and YouTube @ConsciousYouthUK
Contact for more details: hello@consciousyouth.co.uk or 07498 043637

Thursday 15 October

The Distracted Journey: Poems from a Slave

The Distracted Journey: Poems from a Slave as told by Donovan Christopher.

Donovan Christopher will be reading his poetry followed by a conversation where he’ll chat about his writing and will answer questions from the audience.

Time: 7-8pm
Where: Online
Book a place: Online at www.kirkleeslibraries.co.uk or the Kirklees Libraries Facebook page
Contact for more details: Jude.lynn@kirklees.gov.uk

Friday 16 October

‘Hear Our Story’ Podcast

An interview with a community member on their journey and culture. Highlighting the importance of reading and sharing stories from Cohesion and Libraries perspective. Sign up to our Read Kirklees Newsletter www.kirkleeslibraries.co.uk and get the link to our sharing stories – Podcast Launch!

Where: Online
Book a place: Online at www.kirkleeslibraries.co.uk
Contact for more details: Jude.lynn@kirklees.gov.uk

Huddersfield and the NHS: The Caribbean Connection

During 2020 attention has been drawn to the significant frontline contribution by BAME medical, health and support workers during the pandemic. COVID-19 has also had a disproportionate impact upon the UK’s BAME communities.

This new documentary from Kirklees Local TV (KLTv), produced in collaboration with the University of Huddersfield, offers a longer, local perspective. It considers how over the past 72 years, recruitment of people of African Caribbean heritage supported and strengthened the development of the NHS.

It also highlights how those people brought new awareness of specific health-related issues and contributed to the NHS’s evolution into a more inclusive health care system for all.

The live private screening will be followed by a video-link opportunity to talk about issues raised by the new production.

Time: 6-7pm
Where: Online
Book a place: Online event with prior registration. For details please email: info@kirkleeslocaltv.com
Contact for more details: info@kirkleeslocaltv.com

Monday 25 October

Global Black History

Explore why we need to celebrate and reflect on Black history and achievement. Join Touka Fernande to explore individuals and events which have contributed to shaping world history.

Time: 5pm
Where: Online
Book a place: Open streaming webinar on Conscious Youth platforms. Facebook and YouTube @ConsciousYouthUK
Contact for more details: hello@consciousyouth.co.uk or 07498 043637

Wednesday 28 October

Celebrating BHM together sharing Poetry and The History of Negro-Spirituals/Black Gospel

The event is being hosted by Huddersfield Harembee Association (HHA) a local charity operating for over 36 years supporting the community of Huddersfield. HHA aim to support and deliver community activities and socials for the elderly who are lonely and isolated.

Time: 6-8pm
Where: Online
Book a place: Global Black History Zoom link Meeting ID: 880 9759 4220, Passcode: 981215
Contact for more details: To be sent the link via email or for more information please contact, Audrey Robinson-Maynard 07967839542 or Susan Wilson 07806158141

Friday 30 October

Launch of Windrush Garden at Springwood

Building African Caribbean Communities (BACC) was successful in winning funding from the Government Windrush Fund for the Windrush Anniversary Garden. Creation of oasis of green space, situated in the springwood area, where many of the first arrivals settled the garden represents the 70th year of the arrival of the Empire Windrush and is a reminder of the contributions made by that generation to the development of our local area. The garden will have a sense of Caribbean flavour and we hope that the fauna and flora will survive our British weather.

Time: 2pm
Where: This is event is taking place in person but tickets to attend must be booked online.
Book a place: This is a pre-registration event as numbers have to be restricted due to COVID-19. To book a place at this event please contact Natalie, via email at natalie_mbe@hotmail.com or call 07786 651831.
Please note places at this event will be on a first come, first served basis.

Sunday 18 October

Celebrating Black History Month - Afternoon Poetry

Open mic poetry session to celebrate Black History Month. Open to all, please book via the website.

Time: 2-4pm
Where: Online
Book a place: Book your place on Eventbrite by visiting their website at www.batleypoets.co.uk/events/
Contact for more details: team@batleypoets.co.uk

England’s Hidden History

Among the glamour and intrigue that surrounds The Tudor period is the untold story of people of African descent who lived and worked in England – not as slaves but as members of society. Oranya Nubia will be sharing her discoveries made researching more than 250,000 artefacts from archives and parish records about the Blackamoores of England and how their lives affect us today.

Time: 5pm
Where: Online
Book a place: Open streaming webinar on Conscious Youth platforms. Facebook and YouTube @ConsciousYouthUK
Contact for more details: hello@consciousyouth.co.uk or 07498 043637

Wednesday 21 October

Huddersfield’s Caribbean Heritage: A Virtual Walk

An online virtual tour of Huddersfield led by Natalie Pinnock-Hamilton and Heather Norris Nicholson that will highlight the people, places and achievements associated with the town’s Caribbean community.

Explore Huddersfield’s Caribbean history and heritage and discover key locations associated with the pioneering decades. Discover more about Caribbean music, food, community events and places of worship.

This trail is based on the Discover Huddersfield Caribbean Trail created by Denzi Nurse, Natalie Pinnock-Hamilton and Heather Norris Nicholson.

Time: 6pm
Where: Online
Book a place: No booking required. The event will be broadcast live on Kirklees Libraries Facebook and YouTube channels. If you are signed in with a Google ID you can ask questions and add comments during the live event. The Caribbean Heritage Trail will remain on the Kirklees Libraries YouTube channel after the live steam. So if you can’t make it, you can catch up later.
Contact for more details: more details: info@reachperformingarts.com and huddersfield.localhistory@kirklees.gov.uk

Friday 23 October

Windrush: Untold Stories

This 20 minute documentary includes interviews about local African Caribbean descendants’ experiences of local life. Previously unseen and unheard material from the documentary Windrush: The Years After (2019) features in this exploration of navigating race and constructing identity. A series of questions prompt powerful memories, reflections and messages for the future. The live private screening will be followed by a video-link opportunity to talk about issues raised by the new production.

Time: 6-7pm
Where: Online
Book a place: Book a place: Online event with prior registration. For details please email: info@kirkleeslocaltv.com
Contact for more details: info@kirkleeslocaltv.com

Saturday 24 October

Caribbean History and Family History with Linford Sweeney

Linford Sweeney, from Manchester, is an African-centred history educator, family history researcher, coach and author. He runs courses on black history and is a geneologist, tracing Caribbean family roots.

Time: 12-3pm
Where: Online
Book a place: email natalie_mbe@hotmail.com or call 07786 651831, for more information and joining details

Our Story – A Brief Insight into our History, Culture and People

The programme, brought to you by Jamaica National Council for Culture and People (JNCC), will explore/highlight the contribution of black people to this world and the struggles they face. This is to demonstrate why ‘Black Lives’ matter and is just as important as any other lives. The event will also demonstrate the enrichment of British culture with the influence of black culture. ‘Our people’ is an insightful overview of young people, in conversation, as it relates to their lives and the community around them.

Time: 6-8pm
Where: Online
Book a place: Online Live streaming on JNCC’s YouTube channel and Facebook page
Contact for more details: JNCC secretary, Carol Williams, on 07906 754709