

# WOLVERHAMPTON



History & Heritage  
WOLVERHAMPTON

2017



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
**OCTOBER 2017**

## Inspiring quotes

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”

## Marcus Garvey

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.”

## Martin Luther King,

This year's Black History Month programme is sponsored by the University of Wolverhampton. We also acknowledge the support provided to the Black History Month Events Group this year, by the following organisations:



CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Welcome to the 17th edition of the **Black History Month** programme.



In 1998 individuals from the community of Wolverhampton came together and formed a Windrush Committee to organise a local event in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the landing of the Empire Windrush at Tilbury, which carried a significant number of African-Caribbean migrants to Britain.

This Committee together with the Senior Policy and Equality Officer of Wolverhampton Council was then successful in getting other organisations from the community, voluntary and statutory sectors in organising and celebrating Wolverhampton's first Black History Month in 2000.

Black History Month plays an important part in bringing people of all cultures together to move collectively towards our vision, by giving people in our community the opportunity to explore and learn more about Black history and culture, more importantly the roles and contributions Black people have made in shaping the history of this country, which is often overlooked.

Black History Month has inspired other cultures and communities in Britain and around the world to follow suit.

We encourage and invite people living in and outside Wolverhampton to support these events and in doing so, help in creating a cohesive society, where racism is not accepted nor tolerated, where everyone is treated according to their needs and rights and where cultural diversity is celebrated. We appreciate the time and effort people from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors have put into organising events for Black History Month and in producing this programme.



## Foreword by Professor Geoff Layer

Welcome to your guide to Black History Month 2017, highlighting the activities and events you can get involved with as part of this year's month-long celebrations.

We at the University of Wolverhampton are proud to once again act as the lead sponsor for Wolverhampton Black History Month. We believe that Black History Month gives us the opportunity to celebrate the contributions made by the African and Caribbean communities at the local, national and global level. In doing so we can educate people from all communities by combating racist and xenophobic narratives that seek to minimise the role of Black people.



We at the University of Wolverhampton will also be using Black History Month to begin our work with the Equality Challenge Unit to identify what we need to do to improve the university experience for our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic staff, students and visitors as part of the Race Equality Charter.

I would like to say thank you on behalf of the coordinating partners to those who work extremely hard to develop black history events and resources, in a way that makes them accessible to the local communities we serve and people worldwide.

My colleagues and I look forward to being a part of the activities in October, and hope to welcome you to one of the many events we will be hosting at the University.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Events Group

The Black History Month Events Group brings together organisers of activities during Black History Month and those who provide support to the Group or who promote Black History all year round. The aims of the Black History Month Events Group are to:



Promote universal knowledge of Black African History, Culture and Heritage.



Disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British Society and the wider world.



Heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people to their cultural heritage.



Promote cultural diversity across all communities in Wolverhampton.

The events in this magazine are educational and entertaining, and are open to the general public unless specified. It is hoped that these events will promote initiatives to encourage racial harmony and respect of the diverse cultures and skills amongst people in the community in Wolverhampton. Do support these events by encouraging your partner, friends and relatives to come along and join in these celebrations.

### This year's events were organised by:

Arena Theatre (University of Wolverhampton)  
 Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project  
 Ethnic Minority Council  
 Equality & Diversity Unit (University of Wolverhampton)  
 Faculty of Social Sciences (University of Wolverhampton)  
 Light House Media Centre  
 Newhampton Arts Centre  
 City of Wolverhampton Council  
 Wolverhampton LGBT Alliance  
 Alicia Spence

# Black History Month 2017

## Message from Students' Union

Here at the Students' Union, we have worked alongside the University to provide a great program for this year's Black History Month. These events are a fantastic opportunity to celebrate black history and culture from a local and international perspective.



**Ikenna Mirembe**

Black History Month is also the ideal time to honour and educate the legacy of those key figures in Black History not only nationally but also locally. The political and social activism of Martin Luther King Jr. to the stand for civil rights by Rosa Parks; from the awe inspiring work in health during the Crimean war by Mary Seacole to the outstanding achievements of our local Olympians Tessa Sanderson and Denise Lewis to name a few.

Their impacts on society have left a lasting impression on the world and have inspired thousands of the younger generation to pursue their dream and fight for their rights.

Join us this October to celebrate Black History Month!



University of Wolverhampton

# Students' Union

# Thank you

To our Sponsors and Organisations Supporting Black History Month

The BHM Steering Group would like to thank all the individuals and organisations who have made this month possible. We are particularly indebted to our funders and sponsors, in particular the University of Wolverhampton who have generously funded the Black History Month brochure and this year’s Launch Event. We also welcome the donations made by Wolverhampton Homes and Unison. The In-Kind support provided by the Arena Theatre has been crucial to bringing together those supporting Black History Month and also with the distribution of this brochure.

The following organisations also provide In-Kind support as and when required. This includes use of meeting rooms or use of venues to host the Black History Month Launch Event.



Gazebo Theatre in Education



The Heritage Centre



Newhampton Arts Centre



City of Wolverhampton Council



Wolverhampton Homes



University of Wolverhampton and Unison



## The Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project



Black History Month in Wolverhampton has come a long way since 2010. With the emphasis firmly on Black history education we have seen more events which are both entertaining and educational as opposed to entertainment only.

Organisers of Black History Month in other parts of the country are taking note of what we do here in Wolverhampton. We see Black History Month as a means of encouraging the study of Black history education throughout the year.

The Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project (BLHCAP) collects and manages an archive on BME communities in Wolverhampton. The archive is generally referred to as the 'Cultural Archives Collection'.

The archives collection span a period of seven decades and comprise a wide variety of ephemera reflecting the history of the presence of Black and South Asian peoples in Wolverhampton. Materials include newspaper articles, letterheads, documents from voluntary organisations, photographs, letters and oral recordings.

We hold a small but growing collection of over 50 objects ranging from socially historic items to more contemporary items, which reflect the rich diversity of expression by and about the people of the African Diaspora. Much of the collection was acquired by BLHCAP members. Some items were donations from the public.







A variety of the materials from the archive and artefact collections have been used to support our educational and outreach work.

The current content of the archive reflects BLHCAP's history as a local volunteer led grassroots organisation which sought to collect and preserve material encompassing the range of experiences of African and African-Caribbean people and their descendents. We are filling a gap left void by statutory sector archives. As our collection continues to grow, BLHCAP will remain true to documenting this breadth of experience, whilst refining its focus to concentrate on preserving materials from the 20th century through to contemporary times

Volunteers are needed to research some of the objects from the history collection in greater detail, catalogue the artefacts and increase our knowledge about the collection. Tasks include:

- Photographing
- Recording detailed information on catalogue cards
- Researching the artefacts or the makers/donors information
- Creating object files with extended information
- Entering information on computer

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If you want to participate in the work of BLHCAP please contact BLHCAP on 07806461828, email: [blacklocalhistory@live.co.uk](mailto:blacklocalhistory@live.co.uk)



10 BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2017

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

16th September - 19th November 2017

## Black Art Collection Recent Acquisitions and Schools Workshops

This exhibition includes newly acquired art works by three highly acclaimed black artists:

Black Female Hairstyles, a series of colourful collages by Sonia Boyce which explore the politics of black hair and black identity;

Silver Self Portrait by US artist Glenn Ligon, made from coal dust; and Go West Young Man by Keith Piper, whose work was first shown at the Gallery in the early 1980s when he was a member of the Black Arts Movement.

The exhibition is supported by primary and secondary schools workshops throughout the month of October.

Workshops include a tour and talk around the exhibition, followed by a practical arts activity, Or schools can book a free, self-led visit, as entry to the exhibition is free.

These artworks were acquired with support from Heritage Lottery Fund's Collecting Cultures, the V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the Friends of Wolverhampton Arts and Museums.

Venue:	Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1DU.	
<b>Exhibition:</b>		<b>Cost:</b>
Monday to Saturday	10:30am-4:30pm	Exhibition: FREE ENTRY
Sunday	11:00am-4:00pm	<b>Schools Workshops:</b>
		£4 per pupil for 2-hours
<b>School Workshops:</b>		Disabled Access:
Monday to Friday	10:30am-2:30pm	Open to Public:
		Yes
		Yes

To find out more and to book a place please contact the learning team on tel: 01902 552033/038 or email [artsheritagelearning@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:artsheritagelearning@wolverhampton.gov.uk)



5:30 pm

Friday 29th September 2017

## Black History Month Launch Event

The evening will start with a chance for people from across Wolverhampton to socialise whilst eating a hot African-Caribbean buffet and learning more about the activities planned for Black History Month. All while listening to music that brings together the best of Mo-Town, Soca, Dancehall, Hip Hop, Reggae, Afrobeats, RnB, and Soul.

Then from 7pm we will have an evening of performances and talks about Black History, culminating with a special performance from Jaki Graham. Born and raised in the West Midlands, Jaki Graham had six consecutive UK Top 20 hit singles in the 1980s, before finding success internationally. She is currently the Pro-Chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton.

Tickets for this special event are free but limited, so please reserve yours to avoid disappointment.

As this event is likely to be oversubscribed, please be aware any tickets not collected by 6.30pm on the evening will be reallocated to the event waiting list

**Time** 5:30pm

Disabled Access: Yes  
Open to Public: Yes

**Cost** Free

**Venue** Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SB

Organise by Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project with the University of Wolverhampton, Equality and Diversity Unit.

Sunday 1st October 2017

## Nubian Natural Sunday Market

Visit this unique indoor market bringing together Black retailers of cultural items, books, dolls, clothes, gift cards, posters, films and more. This family event is open to all. Families can explore the range of black centric educational materials not available in any local bookstore.

Caribbean eat in or take out is provided by **Adessa's Catering.**

**Time:** 1.00pm – 8.00pm

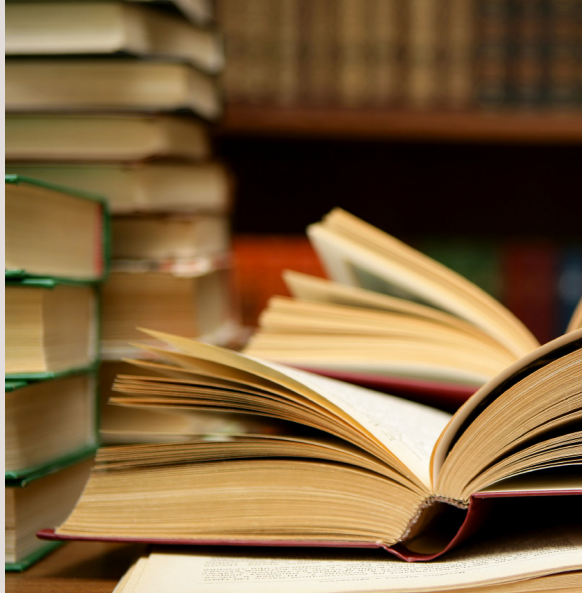
**Venue:** Heritage Centre,  
Clifford Street,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV6 OAA

**Cost:** Free

Disabled Access: Yes

Open to Public: Yes

For further information contact:  
Karl Samuels (Centre Manager)  
on 01902 421 729.



## Black History Month at Wolverhampton Libraries

Wolverhampton libraries mark Black History Month every year by promoting books on Black history and culture, as well novels written by Black writers. Contact your local librarian about Black History Month book displays, and pop into your library to view the Black History Month books section.

Monday 2nd October 2017  
to  
Tuesday 31st October 2017

**Opening times:** Vary across libraries

**Cost:** Free

**Disabled Access:** Yes

**Open to Public:** Yes

## For further information contact:-

### Ashmore Park Library

**E-mail:** ashmorepark.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 556296

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### Penn Library

**E-mail:** penn.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 556281

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### Bilston Library

**E-mail:** bilston.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 556253

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### Springvale Library

**E-mail:** springvale.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 556284

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### Blakenhall Library

**E-mail:** blakenhall.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 555460

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### Tettenhall Library

**E-mail:** tettenhall.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 556308

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### Collingwood Library

**E-mail:** libraries@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 552025

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### Warstones Library

**E-mail:** warstones.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 556275

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### Long Knowle Library

**E-mail:** longknowle.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 556290

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### Wednesfield Library

**E-mail:** wednesfield.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 556278

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### Low Hill Library

**E-mail:** lowhill.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 556293

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### Whitmore Reans

**E-mail:** whitmorereans.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 556269

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### Pendeford Library

**E-mail:** pendeford.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 556250

### Central Library

**E-mail:** libraries@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
**Telephone:** 01902 552025

# THEWAY

## WOLVERHAMPTON YOUTH ZONE

Monday 2nd to Tuesday 31st October 2017

### Little England by the sea

A combined arts programme for young people aged 8-19yrs (upto 25yrs for those with additional needs) focusing on raising awareness of the Bajan (Barbadian) culture and its links to England.

A variety of activities will be provided throughout the month that will focus on recreating and performing the Barbados Landship. Activities will include Landship dance workshops, making a Maypole, Tuk music workshops, costume making and many more.

For further information contact [info@thewayyouthzone.org](mailto:info@thewayyouthzone.org)  
tel: 01902 328 290 (Reception) Website: [Thewayyouthzone.org](http://Thewayyouthzone.org)

#### Time

The Way Youth Zone is open:

**Senior Sessions (13yrs+)** :- 4pm – 10pm,  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

**Junior Sessions (8-12yrs):**

Tuesday and Wednesday :- 4pm – 9pm  
Saturday :- 10am – 2pm



The oldest recorded Black Briton hailing from sub Saharan Africa is 'Beachy Head Lady'. She lived in what is now East Sussex between 200 and 250ce.



**Monday 2nd to Tuesday 31st October 2017**

## Shaping the Ages

A programme of activities for young people aged 8-19yrs (upto 25yrs for those with additional needs) the theme of the month being Black History with a specific focus on people who have shaped our lives and culture.

Activities will focus on a variety of people past and present to increase understanding and awareness of the impact they have had as well as developing skills around these topical areas for young people attending.

**Organiser:** Beverley Baxter, The Way Youth Zone,  
School Street, Wolverhampton, WV3 0NR

### Cost

To attend sessions at The Way Youth Zone young people will need to be registered as members.

Our membership fee is **£5**, paid once per year and then only **50p every time you come after that!**

**Disabled Access:** Yes

**Open to Public:** The event is open to registered members of the Way Youth Zone



Ariana Miyamoto, the daughter of a Japanese mother and African American father was crowned Miss Universe Japan in 2015, making her the first mixed heritage Miss Japan.



£12

**ARENA  
THEATRE**



**Tuesday 3rd October 2017**

## **An Evening With An Immigrant**

**Organiser: Arena Theatre**

The acclaimed spoken word show from Inua Ellams comes to Wolverhampton. He was born to a Muslim father and a Christian mother in what is now considered by many to be Boko Haram territory, award-winning poet and playwright Inua Ellams left Nigeria for England in 1996 aged 12, moved to Ireland for three years, before returning to London and starting work as a writer and graphic designer.

Part of this story was documented in his autobiographical Fringe First Award-winning play *The 14th Tale*, but much of it is untold. Littered with poems, stories and anecdotes, Inua will tell his ridiculous, fantastic, poignant immigrant-story of escaping fundamentalist Islam, experiencing prejudice and friendship in Dublin, performing solo at the National Theatre, and drinking wine with the Queen of England, all the while without a country to belong to or place to call home.

★★★★★ Everything Theatre

★★★★★ Matt Trueman, [whatsonstage.com](http://whatsonstage.com)

“His words are incredible... The poems are just stunning.” Everything Theatre

For further information email [arena@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:arena@wlv.ac.uk) or visit [arena.wlv.ac.uk](http://arena.wlv.ac.uk).

### **Time**

7.30pm

### **Cost**

£12 **full price**

£10 **Concessions**

Tickets can be booked through the Arena Theatre's website ([arena.wlv.ac.uk](http://arena.wlv.ac.uk)), by calling (01902) 321 321 or from the Arena Theatre Box Office.

### **Venue**

Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SB





Thursday 5th October 2017

## Just An Ordinary Lawyer

Organiser: Arena Theatre

"The British Empire was trying desperately to hold on to its colonial possessions by any means ... and the foul would often override the fair."

Tunji Sowande arrived in London from Nigeria in 1945 to study law and pursue his interest in music. He rose to become a well respected barrister, the first Black Head of Chambers, and finally the first (part-time) Black Judge in Britain.

He was an active solo concert performer as a baritone singer, giving concerts for charities and to entertain residents of old people's homes. On top of it all, he was a great lover of cricket, and became a member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the home of cricket.

In an undefined setting, Sowande muses on Imperialism, Colonialism and Black people's struggles for freedom, justice and human rights, in Africa and the diaspora. He is however not a political man – he prefers to do his job and watch sports. He is nonetheless does his bit to spread peace and love through the medium of music and song.

From the writer and performer of the multi-award-winning international hit, Call Mr. Robeson (\*\*\*\* [First Rate](#), [The Guardian](#)) comes another "brilliantly put together history lesson delivered as art" (Dirt & Candy).

**Time** 7:30pm

Disabled Access: Yes  
Open to Public: Yes

**Cost** £12 - Full Price  
£10 - Concessions

**Venue** Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SB

For further information email [arena@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:arena@wlv.ac.uk) or visit [arena.wlv.ac.uk](http://arena.wlv.ac.uk).

Saturday 7th October 2017

## Successful Black Britons Conference

Organiser: Ethnic Minority Council

A conference for the whole family with keynote speakers, community representatives, workshops, and entertainment to inspire our next generation.

### Our Black Role Models

#### *Who is your role model ?*

They could be a parent, a friend, community worker, a teacher, film star, a business leader or a sports hero.

Striving to improve yourself - have you a role model in your life you look up to?

## EMC Presents.... Successful Black Britons Conference

**A CONFERENCE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES, WORKSHOPS, AND ENTERTAINMENT TO INSPIRE OUR NEXT GENERATION.**

### Our Black Role Models

Who is your role model? They could be a parent, a friend, community worker, a teacher, film star, a business leader or a sports hero. Striving to improve yourself - have you a role model in your life you look up to? Discussing the importance of having good role models in the community

### INSPIRING OUR NEXT GENERATION

On Saturday 7th October 2017 for 10.30am - 2.30pm

### PROGRAMME KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Networking Opportunities

Lunch and Entertainment

**Workshops & Panels** **Workshop 1** – Inspiring Our Next Generation with Role Models in our Community

**Workshop 2** – Black Business Network – Responsibility of Wolverhampton's Black Business Inspiring Others

**Workshop 3** – Family Focus – Its Takes a Whole Village to Raise a Child

**Workshop 4** – Keys to Success and Motivation

### FAMOUS BRITISH ROLE MODELS

- Mary Seacole, Crimean War nurse
- Olaudah Equiano, political activist
- Sir Trevor McDonald, newsreader
- Benjamin Zephaniah, poet
- Lennox Lewis, the most successful British sportsman of all time
- Diane Abbott, first black woman
- MP Moira Stuart, newsreader
- Frank Bruno, boxer
- Claudia Jones, founder of the Notting Hill Carnival
- Herman Ouseley, first black head of the Commission for Racial Equality
- Beverley Knight, singer
- John Archer, UK's first black mayor
- Mica Paris, singer



**FREE  
EVENT**

7th  
**OCTOBER**  
2017

**SUCCESSFUL  
BLACK BRITONS  
CONFERENCE  
2017**

**Time**

10.30am - 2.30pm

Disabled Access:  
Open to Public:

Yes  
Yes

**Cost**

Free To book a place contact  
[ethnicminoritycouncil.org](http://ethnicminoritycouncil.org)  
Tel: 01902 313 052

**Venue**

Ethnic Minority Council, 18 Stewart Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV2 4JW

For further information contact Suffia Perveen Tel: 01902 313 052

Tuesday 10th October 2017

## Hidden Figures

The University of Wolverhampton joins forces with the Light House to celebrate Ada Lovelace Day and Black History Month with a special screening of the acclaimed film, Hidden Figures.

The story based on true events, about a group of African-American women who were hired by NASA for their skills in mathematics to be part of America's space programme in the 1960's. It has been widely praised for celebrating the crucial contribution of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson.

The screening will be preceded by a forty-five minute lecture from the University of Wolverhampton about the role of black women in the Sciences.

**Time:** 5.00 pm

**Venue:** Light House Media Centre,  
The Chubb Buildings,  
Fryer Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT

**Cost:** £4.50

**Disabled Access:** Yes

**Open to Public:** Yes



[www.ticketsource.co.uk/newhamptonartscentre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/newhamptonartscentre)



Friday 13th October 2017

## The Head Wrap Diaries

Hair – worn long, worn short, worn wavy or in braids – is the subject of The Head Wrap Diaries, a funny and uplifting dance theatre performance by Uchenna Dance. It's an interactive show set in a hair salon about people, and their ongoing relationship with hair.





Mixing dance, theatre and storytelling with a good dose of humour, stylists Linda and Riyah who will take you on a hair journey that will have you laughing out loud, thinking about your own (and everyone else's!) hair while you learn a thing or two about afro-hair, straight from the hairdresser's chair

This exciting dance experience features a fabulously produced score by Ghanaian musician Kweku Aacht who provides a sizzling soundtrack of sounds from 90s R'n'B to traditional Ghanaian pop music

**Time** 7.30pm

**Cost** £5 Children  
£7 Adults  
£20 Family Ticket  
Places limited, book in advance.

**Venue** Newhampton Arts Centre,  
Dunkley Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV 1 4AN

Disabled Access: Yes  
Open to Public: Yes

For further information contact Christine McGowan Tel: 01902 572090

A hands-on (and heads-on) head wrap bar will include head wraps for sale, newly commissioned art work, photography, dolls and examples of afro textured hair. Audiences will have the opportunity to learn and share different ways of tying head wraps. Bring your own piece of fabric or experiment with the ones provided. Explore your own personal style, create your own 'crown' and learn a new skill.

*"Here is a performance that is engaging, authentic, culturally rooted and beautifully danced with an intelligent installation and (head) wrap-around programme"* Ian Abbott,



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON WILL HELP YOU REACH YOUR POTENTIAL

At the University of Wolverhampton, we pride ourselves on the achievements of our staff and students, and work to ensure everyone maximises their individual potential.

We recently won a Guardian Higher Education Award for our work supporting the professional development of our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff. We provide extensive training opportunities for our staff members, including facilitating participation in mentoring schemes and attendance at external conferences.

We have an active BAME Staff Network that works to support staff by providing pastoral support, organising social voice and raising key issues with senior management.

Our Students' Union has a full-time Diversity Officer who works with student groups and university services to support BAME students.

We are working towards achieving the Equality Challenge Unit's Race Equality Charter by identifying what we can do to improve the University experience for our BAME staff, students and visitors.

We work closely with the local community to provide public events that celebrate the contribution of Black and Asian people and further the cause of race equality. This will include hosting a Black History Month Conference on Thursday 19 October 2017 and an Asian Heritage Month Conference on Wednesday 2 May 2018.

**Interested in joining us? Find out more at: [wlv.ac.uk/BAME](http://wlv.ac.uk/BAME)**



## The Birth of Black superheroes and Racism in the Comic Books Industry

American superhero comics have captured the imaginations of people young and old since 1939. Yet the overwhelming majority of superhero comics are White. We look at some of the first Black characters to break into superhero comics.

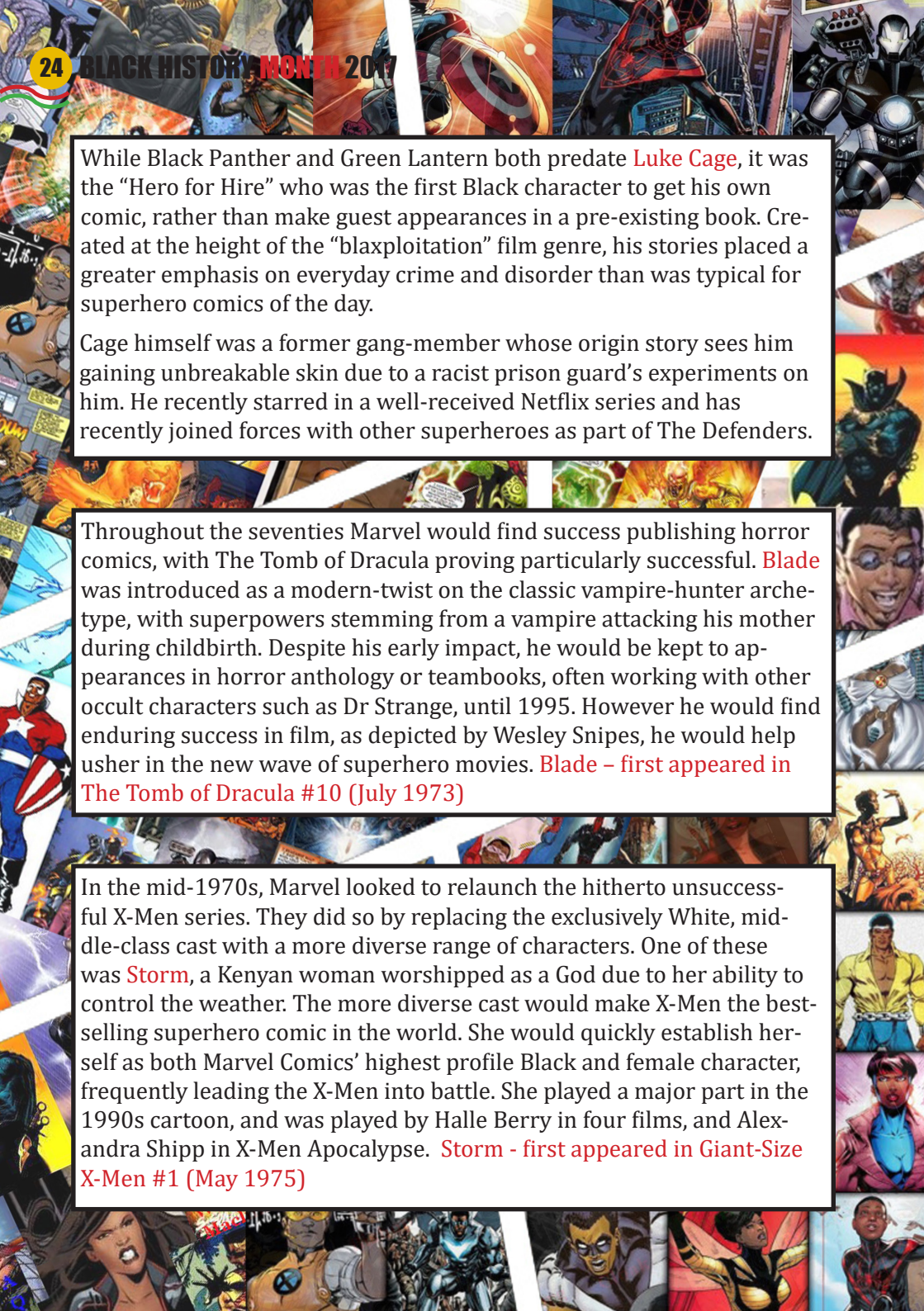
While some comics had featured Black heroes before, **Black Panther** was the first Black superhero. His first appearance in 1966 predates the launch of the Black Panther Party by a few months, although the animal was already heavily associated with the civil rights movement. Although frequently depicted as King of the fictional African Country, Wakanda, many of his stories have focused on him acting as a superhero in America, with him having been a member of both the Fantastic Four and The Avengers. (First appeared in **Fantastic Four #52 - July 1966**)

Whether in America or Wakanda, the series has never been afraid to confront political issues, with early stories seeing Black Panther fight the KKK. He is currently written by social commentator Ta-Nehisi Coates and is about to star in his own movie.

**Green Lantern** is a DC Comics series about an intergalactic paramilitary force that enforces peace across the universe. Jon Stewart was introduced in 1971 as the understudy for Hal Jordan, Earth's current Guardian. He is currently being written by social commentator Ta-Nehisi Coates and is about to star in his own movie.

During the 1980s he would be the lead character in over 100 superhero comics and would later be featured prominently in Justice League of Americacartoons. So associated with Green Lantern did he become to the general public, that when the 2011 film used Hal Jordan rather than him, test audiences asked why they had cast a White actor as Green Lantern.

**Jon Stewart – first appeared in Green Lantern #87 (December 1971)**



While Black Panther and Green Lantern both predate **Luke Cage**, it was the “Hero for Hire” who was the first Black character to get his own comic, rather than make guest appearances in a pre-existing book. Created at the height of the “blaxploitation” film genre, his stories placed a greater emphasis on everyday crime and disorder than was typical for superhero comics of the day.

Cage himself was a former gang-member whose origin story sees him gaining unbreakable skin due to a racist prison guard’s experiments on him. He recently starred in a well-received Netflix series and has recently joined forces with other superheroes as part of The Defenders.

Throughout the seventies Marvel would find success publishing horror comics, with The Tomb of Dracula proving particularly successful. **Blade** was introduced as a modern-twist on the classic vampire-hunter archetype, with superpowers stemming from a vampire attacking his mother during childbirth. Despite his early impact, he would be kept to appearances in horror anthology or teambooks, often working with other occult characters such as Dr Strange, until 1995. However he would find enduring success in film, as depicted by Wesley Snipes, he would help usher in the new wave of superhero movies. **Blade – first appeared in The Tomb of Dracula #10 (July 1973)**

In the mid-1970s, Marvel looked to relaunch the hitherto unsuccessful X-Men series. They did so by replacing the exclusively White, middle-class cast with a more diverse range of characters. One of these was **Storm**, a Kenyan woman worshipped as a God due to her ability to control the weather. The more diverse cast would make X-Men the best-selling superhero comic in the world. She would quickly establish herself as both Marvel Comics’ highest profile Black and female character, frequently leading the X-Men into battle. She played a major part in the 1990s cartoon, and was played by Halle Berry in four films, and Alexandra Shipp in X-Men Apocalypse. **Storm - first appeared in Giant-Size X-Men #1 (May 1975)**





Whilst the success of these and other Black superhero characters represented progress, the industry still struggled to reflect the diversity of its readership. A key issue was the lack of Black writers and artists. Indeed all the characters listed in this article were created by White people, who were sometimes criticised for relying on crude stereotypes. In the early nineties a group of African-American creators sought to change that by launching **Milestone Comics**. The company published a series of comics set in the fictional city of Dakota that sought to tell stories from a uniquely African-American perspective. Its legacy endures to this day with DC Comics having introduced many of its characters and concepts into its continuity. (**Milestone Comics – founded in 1993**)

Pat Mills is commonly referred to as “The Godfather of British Comics”. He was at the head of a new wave in the seventies when he created ground breaking titles; Battle, Action and 2000AD. In addition to developing fearsome future lawman Judge Dredd when the original creative team briefly left 2000AD he has co-created internationally renowned characters such as Nemesis the Warlock, Marshall Law, Charley’s War and Requiem Vampire Knight. He spoke to us about his experience of trying to introduce Black characters into his stories, and working with Black creators.

*There has been resistance to Black characters in British comics. Which I feature in the novel Serial Killer, based on what happened on Action when I featured a Black boxer, Black Jack. The Managing Editor said I couldn’t have a Black hero and I should have a white boxer hero with a Black sidekick. I ignored him and the story worked. Later on 2000AD, my Harlem Heroes looked good and were popular.*

*Some of it is down to traditional British attitudes and the legacy of British colonisation. Some of it is apathy and disinterest. And some of it is even resistance from the right-on, white middle classes, as I know to my cost from writing Third World War, which was a story about the war against the poor.*

*Readers were fine when it was set in South America but when the characters moved to Brixton and it dealt with racism on the streets of London there was a backlash. When we featured the British's brutal quelling of the Mau Mau in Kenya, the printers at first refused to print it. When we worked on 3WW we found few white artists who could draw Black people successfully. Some were terrible! It was that tough!*

*Alan Mitchell, my Black co-writer on 3WW sadly died last year. When I decided to write about Black issues, I figured the only correct way would be to bring in a Black writing partner. After a search, I found Alan Mitchell and we explored subjects neither of us would have dared to write solo. Positive and negative images of Black people for example. Some of them very funny, I think. And Alan knew enough Rastafarians to get their dialogue exactly right. So later we did a futuristic story for ABC Warriors featuring Black Marines with authentic Black dialogue. To my horror, my then editor Andy Diggle, rewrote it with his interpretation of Black cool Marine dialogue without reference to me; giving rise to an intro I wrote for the book's introduction: "Don't fake the funk". We worked with Morak, a famous Nigerian artist, on a story for Toxic - Coffin - about a Black Schwarzenegger style character. Quite a right-on theme about Africa dying, but it didn't find favour with readers, possibly because of resistance to Black heroes in the UK. Hard to prove, but it is there. Last time I met him - about five years ago - he was a police special.*

*In Norway, about four years ago, I met Ethiopian Josef Yohannes who wrote and published The Urban Legend. Story was spot on and right on! You and your audience would love it! I read it in English version. Art is great too by Steve Baker. I encouraged Josef to try Titan, Image, Dark Horse etc. Pretty certain he drew a blank with them for the usual reasons!*

*Pat Mills has recently released his autobiography "Be Pure, Be Vigilant, BEHAVE!", and "SERIAL KILLER" the first in a series of novels set in a distorted, murderous version of the British comics industry. These and other titles of his can be purchased through Amazon.co.uk. For more information about his work visit [www.millsverse.com](http://www.millsverse.com).*



# PRIDE IN YOUR COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

**Are you proud to be part of your community? Do you have community spirit?**

Why not take up the Pride In Your Community Challenge and prove it! All you need to do is host an event or just get together with ten or more of your neighbours and capture the moment in a photo. Send your photos to us and you could be in with a chance of winning a prize for your street.

Last year, 16 streets took part. Events included a food festival, a Pokemon bike challenge, a Halloween party and a football training session. The prizes chosen ranged from a community bench to new grit bins and storage facilities.



Get in touch with our Tenant Engagement team at [www.wolverhamptonhomes.org.uk/](http://www.wolverhamptonhomes.org.uk/) get-involved or call us on 01902 555119.



Thursday 19th October 2017

University of Wolverhampton Presents

## **Black History Month Conference**

To celebrate Black History Month the University of Wolverhampton will be holding a day of lectures, workshops and discussions covering the role of Black people in today's society and throughout history.

A key theme will be looking at the role that Black people play in today's turbulent political climate. We will hear from the New Statesman's Stephen Bush about what the recent General Election meant for Black people across the UK.

Stephen Bush is one of the UK's leading political journalists, his work has also featured in the Guardian, Independent, London Evening Standard, and the BBC.

**Time** 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

**Venue** Ambika Paul Building, City Campus, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1LY.

Disabled Access: Yes

Open to Public: Yes

**Organiser:** University of Wolverhampton in conjunction with City of Wolverhampton Council



CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL



The University will also be talking about how staff and students, as well members of the general public, can support its efforts to improve the University experience of BAME and Other Ethnic Minority staff, students and visitors.

The day will run from 10am to 4pm but people are welcome to attend for only part of the day if that is convenient. Lunch will be provided to conference attendees.

Black and Asian councillors will part-take in a workshop that gives an insight into how they got involved in politics, what being a councillor entails, etc and how BAME's could make a difference in getting involved in civic life. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions.

The Workshop will take place from 2.00 pm to 3.15 pm in the Ambika Paul Building. This workshop is organized jointly by the City of Wolverhampton Council and the University of Wolverhampton..

### Cost

This event is **free** for everyone to attend  
To avoid disappointment please reserve your place through our electronic booking page that can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/university-of-wolverhampton-black-history-month-conference-tickets-36538974055> or by emailing [w.cooling@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:w.cooling@wlv.ac.uk).

For further information contact Delva Campbell on 01902 554081/  
email: [Delva.campbell@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Delva.campbell@wolverhampton.gov.uk)



Thursday 19th October 2017

## “Rivers of Blood in Wolverhampton? Enoch Powell, racism and resistance”

“Dr. Shirin Hirsch is a postdoctoral research fellow in History at the University of Wolverhampton. She is currently completing a book on Enoch Powell, race and resistance which will be published by Manchester University Press in 2018. In this special Black History Month Lecture, she will look beyond the headlines at Powell’s relationship with the city he made infamous.

The Event will begin with a talk on race equality today by Eleanor Smith, Labour Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton South West. Eleanor Smith was elected in the 2017 general election, becoming the West Midlands’ first ever Afro Caribbean MP after winning the seat once held by the Conservative MP Enoch Powell”

**Time** 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

**Cost** Free  
Bookings can be made by email:  
[j.barnett@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:j.barnett@wlv.ac.uk)

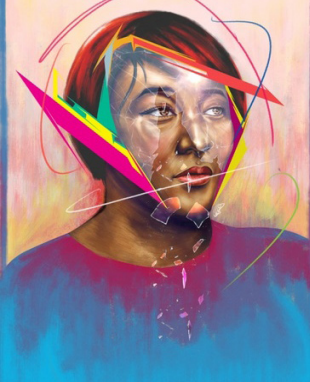
**Venue** University of  
Wolverhampton,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1LY.

**Organiser** Dr. Richard Hawkins

University of  
Wolverhampton.



For further information contact Joshua Barnet or  
Email: [j.barnett@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:j.barnett@wlv.ac.uk)



**ARENA  
THEATRE**  
WOLVERHAMPTON

Thursday 19th October 2017

**Time** 7:30 pm

## Quarter Life Crisis

What does it mean to be an adult and when do you become one?

Alicia is a hot mess. She doesn't know what she's doing with her life. Swiping left, swiping right to find the perfect match.

Quarter Life Crisis mixes addictive baselines, spoken word and audience participation.

Even though she's a Londoner, born and bred, the scent of Lagos peppers her existence in the ends.

Everyone around her seems to know where they're going in life, but she's just trying to find ways to cheat growing up and keep her 16-25 railcard.

What does it mean to be an adult and when do you become one?

### Cost

£12 full price

£10 Concessions

Tickets can be booked through the Arena Theatre's website ([arena.wlv.ac.uk](http://arena.wlv.ac.uk)), by calling (01902) 321 321 or from the Arena Theatre Box Office.

### Venue

Arena Theatre,  
Wulfruna Street,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1SB

Disabled Access: Yes

Open to Public: Yes

For further information email [arena@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:arena@wlv.ac.uk) or visit [arena.wlv.ac.uk](http://arena.wlv.ac.uk).



Lewis Hamilton, Britain's first Black Formula One racing champion, breaks a record with every race won.



Thursday 19th October 2017

## Thinking Out Loud - Musings of a Black Midwife

**Organiser:** University of Wolverhampton, Wolverhampton, WV1 1LY

The University of Wolverhampton begins its 2017/18 Public Health Seminar Series with a special Black History Month event. Elsie Gayle provides a personal reflection on her experiences as someone who came to the UK to work in the NHS, an interactive exploration of persistent existing health inequalities across the life course, and steps practitioners can take to address them.

In doing so will be bringing to light how the creation of the National Health Service brought large numbers of health workers to Britain from the Commonwealth countries, to both train and work in the service. Despite barriers to their integration many have led successful lives, with their knowledge and skills having made a significant continued contribution to the success of the NHS.

Elsie Gayle is a midwife in private practice, with significant national and international experience. She Co-Chairs the Society of African and Caribbean Midwives in the UK, and is dedicated to ameliorating the historical inequalities in service provision, the root causes of obstetric violence; the poor outcomes for disadvantaged mothers and babies, and in particular those of African descent.

**Time** 5-00 pm to 7.00 pm

**Cost** This is a **free** event open to anyone interested in public health but places will be limited so please reserve you place by emailing FE-HWEvents@wlv.ac.uk with your name and email details. Refreshments will be provided at the event.

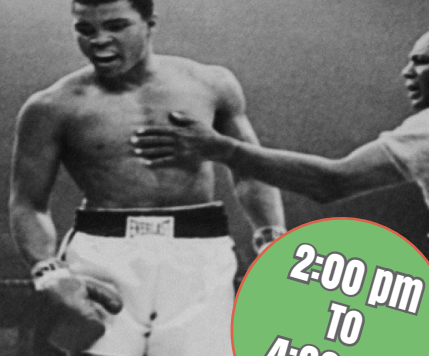
**Disabled Access:** Yes  
**Open to Public:** Yes

**Venue** University of Wolverhampton,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1LY.

For further information contact Ranjit Khutan by emailing FEHWEvents@wlv.ac.uk.



**I AM KING...  
I FLOAT LIKE  
A BUTTERFLY,  
STING LIKE  
A BEE.  
- MUHAMMAD ALI**



33

2:00 pm  
TO  
4:00 pm

Wednesday 25th October 2017

## Muhammad Ali – The Great Black Hope?

The University of Wolverhampton will be hosting a special talk on what Muhammad Ali meant to Black politics.

It places Ali in the context of a world where boxing was unusually open to Black and White athletes competing against each other, an openness that led not to racial harmony but White backlash. It shows that Ali broke the mould set by previous African-American champion such as Joe Louis who had sought to appease White society by striking a deferential pose. It will explore Ali's involvement in the Nation of Islam and his racially-charged taunting of Joe Frazier in an attempt to establish how sincere Ali was in his advocacy of Black Power.

Will Cooling has covered pro-wrestling, UFC and boxing for a variety of outlets including Fox Sports, Wrestling Observer and Fighting Spirit Magazine. For FSM, he has previously written about Muhammad Ali vs. Joe Frazier, and Muhammad Ali's wider legacy.

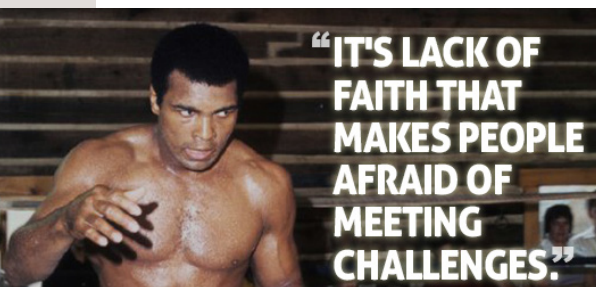
**Venue:**

Samuel Johnson Building, Gorway Road,  
Walsall, West Midlands, WS13BD

**Cost:**

This event is free for everyone to attend with no registration being necessary.

Disabled Access: Yes  
Open to Public: Yes



**Time** 2:00pm - 4:00pm

**Friday 27th October 2017**

## **Funny Bones**

**Newhampton Arts Centre**

Find your funny bone in these comedy workshops for children and young people led by professional actress and funny woman, Tonia Daley -Campbell. Find out what makes people laugh and discover your own unique funny style. Plus a chance to perform at the Funny Market on 29th Oct as part of the Funny Things comedy festival in Wolverhampton.

Places limited, book in advance.

**Ages:** 11-16

**Time:** 1:30 - 4:30 pm

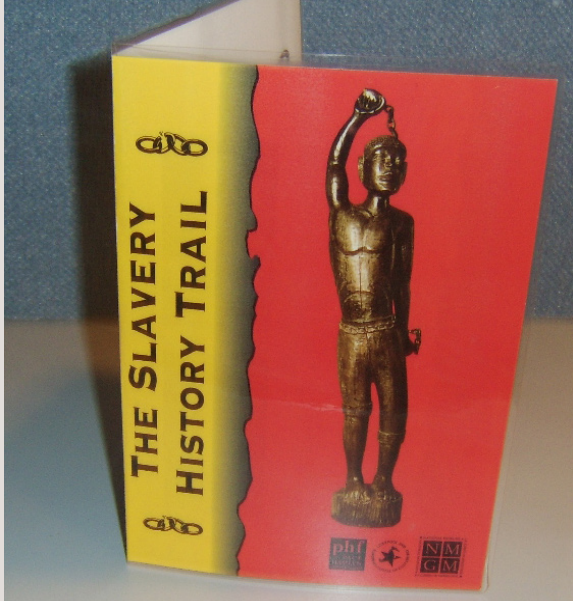
**Cost:** £4.00 (limited number of bursaries at £1)

**Venue:** Newhampton Arts Centre,  
Dunkley Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV 1 4AN.

**Disabled Access:** Yes

**Open to Public:** Yes

For further information contact Christine McGowan Tel: 01902 572090



## **Liverpool International Slavery Museum**

**Friday 27th October 2017**

A visit to the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool to raise awareness of the history of slavery as well as following the Slavery History Trail.

For further information contact [info@thewayyouthzone.org](mailto:info@thewayyouthzone.org) tel: 01902 328 290 (Reception) Website: [thewayyouthzone.org](http://thewayyouthzone.org)





The Way Youth Zone, School Street, Wolverhampton, WV3 0NR

National Museums Liverpool  
National Museums Liverpool  
National Museums Liverpool

## INTERNATIONAL SLAVERY MUSEUM

National  
Museums  
Liverpool

### Cost

To attend sessions at The Way Youth Zone young people will need to register as members.

Our membership fee is **£5**, paid once per and then only **50p every time you come after that!**

**Time** 9.00am – 6.00pm

The Way Youth Zone is open:

**Senior Sessions (13yrs+)** :- 4pm – 10pm,  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

**Junior Sessions (8-12yrs):**  
Tuesday and Wednesday :- 4pm – 9pm  
Saturday :- 10am – 2pm

**Organiser:** Beverley Baxter, The Way  
Youth Zone, School Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV3 0NR

**Disabled Access:**  
Yes

**Open to Public:**  
The event is open  
to registered  
members of the  
Way Youth Zone

**THEWAY**  
WOLVERHAMPTON YOUTH ZONE



The oldest existing rope dates back to before 3100BCE (Before Christian Era). It was made by Ancient Egyptians from the papyrus plant.



Monday 30th October 2017

## Moonlight

In association with the Wolverhampton LGBT Alliance and the University of Wolverhampton, the Light House will be hosting a special Black History Month screening of the acclaimed film, Moonlight.

Winner of Golden Globes and Oscars 'Best Picture', Moonlight tells the personal history of a young black man as he struggles to find his place in the world while growing up in a rough Miami neighbourhood and coming to terms with his sexuality.

The screening will be preceded by a forty-five minute discussion organised by the University of Wolverhampton and Wolverhampton LGBT Alliance. This will include talks on the unique challenges facing Black LGBT people, the contribution made by prominent Black LGBT people throughout history, and how the Oscars reformed itself in response to the 2016 "Oscars So White" protests.

**Time** 5:00 pm      Disabled Access: **Yes**    Open to Public: **Yes**

**Cost** £ 4.50  
Tickets can be booked through the Light House's website (<http://light-house.co.uk/>), by calling (01902) 716055 or from the Light House Box Office.

**Venue** Light House, Light House Media Centre, The Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street Wolverhampton WV1 1HT

For further information about the pre-screening talk please contact the University of Wolverhampton by emailing [w.cooling@wlw.ac.uk](mailto:w.cooling@wlw.ac.uk).



Tuesday 7th - Monday 13th November 2017

## Discovering Black British Superheroes

Organiser: Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project.

This is a static display at Wolverhampton's Central Library which looks at the concept of a Black British Superheroes and the history of Black superheroes in mainstream comics.

Superheroes created by Alf Potter, Wolverhampton's pioneering superhero artist and writer'.

**Time** Monday to Thursday  
10.00 am till 7.00pm

**Friday** 10:00am till 5:00pm

**Saturday** 10:00am till 2:00pm

**Cost** Free

**Venue** Wolverhampton Central Library, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton, WV1 3AX

**Organiser** Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project

Disabled Access: Yes  
Open to Public: Yes



For further information contact David Bennett – Mobile: 07806-461828



10th and 11th November 2017

# First World Music Conference

Organiser: Dr Chithra Ramakrishnan Shruthi Uk

The First World Music Conference 2017 celebrates the richness and diversity of Music.

The conference aims to bring together professionals, artistes, academia and the community through the diverse genres and styles of music from around the world.

The First World Music Conference will provide a platform to learn, share knowledge, explore and appreciate the impact of world music.

## Time

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm  
6:00 pm to 9:00pm

## Cost

Free

Booking information for the event can be obtained from Dr Chithra Ramakrishnan Shruthi Uk, [Worldmusicconference.co.uk](http://Worldmusicconference.co.uk) Tel: 07875472307

## Venue

The Chancellors Hall,  
Wulfruna Building,  
University of Wolverhampton,  
Wulfruna Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1

Disabled Access:	Yes
Open to Public:	Yes

For further information contact Dr Chithra Ramakrishnan Shruthi Uk

# BLACK HISTORY & HERITAGE WOLVERHAMPTON



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black Local History & Cultural Online

The theme for Black History Month 2017 in Wolverhampton is 'Birth of Black superheroes and Racism in the Comic Books Industry'. This year in addition to promoting events with a specific focus on Black history, we also highlight events focusing on Black Superheroes as a positive role models.

Black History & Heritage plays an important part in bringing people of all cultures together, by giving people in our community the opportunity to explore and learn more about Black History.

[www.blackhistoryandheritage.com](http://www.blackhistoryandheritage.com)

# PRIDE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

NEIGHBOURS' DAY • CITY GARDEN COMPETITION • ESTATE INSPECTIONS • FLAIR FAIR • OLDER PERSONS' DAY • BE CONSIDERATE



**Angela Davis**

Board Membe,  
Diversity Champion,  
Wolverhampton Homes

I am delighted to have been asked to write a few words towards celebrating Black History Month 2017.

Black History Month is recognised with a month-long programme of exciting and inspirational events and workshops. It's a perfect opportunity to celebrate the enormous contribution BME communities have made to Wolverhampton and the UK over the years.

Wolverhampton Homes is proud to support Black History Month. We're committed to the celebration of diversity in all its glorious forms and want to recognise those communities and individuals that enhance our city's diverse and vibrant culture."

Black history month is an opportunity to use our voices, thoughts, opinions, and ideas. I celebrate the fact of winning the CIH regional 2016 and national 2017 apprentice of the year. I would like to open the doors to whoever you are and where ever you have come from, that there is always an opportunity to become educated elevated and empowered.

**Chen Thompson**



**Shadrack**



For me Black History Month is a time to celebrate our achievements and how far we have come as a people. Personally, going to university and graduating with a good degree and thereafter joining Wolverhampton Homes where I've worked my way up from an apprenticeship to an Estate Manager role is quite an achievement, winning the National Federation of ALMOS "Apprentice of the year 2014" really epitomizes what one can achieve in life if only they can believe in themselves.





## Jaki Graham Interview

Wolverhampton Black History Month is honoured to have Jaki Graham perform at its Launch Event at the Arena Theatre on Friday 29th September

*From March 1985, Jaki Graham had six consecutive UK Top 20 hit singles (including three Top 10 hits) – ‘Could It Be I’m Falling In Love’, ‘Round And Around’, ‘Mated’, ‘Set Me Free’, ‘Breaking Away’ and ‘Step Right Up’, two of them being duets with fellow-British soul singer David Grant – leading her to become of the UK’s best R&B/soul artists, whose singles gained her international recognition, including a US Billboard Dance Chart #1 in 1995, with a cover of Rufus & Chaka Khan’s ‘Ain’t Nobody’.*

Jaki kindly shared some time to talk about her internationally acclaimed career, and the enduring influence of Motown.

**Wolverhampton Black History Month:**

How did you first break into the music industry?

**Jaki Graham:**

*It was actually my boyfriend at the time, Tony, who’s now my husband, who saw an ad in our local paper saying ‘Soul Singer Wanted’. He answered the ad without me knowing and set it all up for the audition, as he used to hear me singing around the house. As it happened I got the job!*

**Wolverhampton Black History Month:**

You had a series of UK Chart hits throughout the eighties, does one stand out to you?

**Jaki Graham:**

*It would have to be Round and Around as that was my first solo National and International hit and is just an all-round great track, no pun intended. I think it’s always a favourite of the fans too and I know it’s one of Tony Blackburn’s also, which means a lot.*



### Wolverhampton Black History Month:

You've had success in America, duetting with Michael McDonald, and Ain't Nobody topping the Dance Charts. How did you find working in America?

#### Jaki Graham:

*Brilliant! I grew up listening to a lot of American artists as a youngster which I think a lot of us tried to emulate. Even though the UK has its own sound, it was the US artists we'd hear more of. As we were able to create a bit more of a fusion between both sounds it was great that the Americans were embracing what I did and liked what they were hearing so I think there's an all-round mutual respect. It's a great place and I've gone on to have the opportunity to work with some of the greats to have come from there. It's not every day you get the chance to perform at some of the most prestigious amphitheatres in LA so I feel very privileged.*

### Wolverhampton Black History Month:

It has been noted that many of your songs that were successful in America didn't receive the same exposure in Britain. Was this frustrating and what so you put it down to?

#### Jaki Graham:

*I was big on the Underground Soul scene in the US back in the 80's but with my more recent music it simply boiled down to a lack of promotion and effort from the label who the albums were licensed to in the UK at the time. It was frustrating, as there's still a number of fans in this country that haven't heard 3 very important albums to me, which did very well on an international level across the rest of the world. Fortunately Demon Music bought out my Anthology Box Set a couple of years ago which includes my entire works so everyone gets a chance to come up to speed and hear my entire catalogue.*

### Wolverhampton Black History Month:

Speaking of America, you've recorded cover versions of several MoTown songs. What do you think about the company's enduring legacy?

#### Jaki Graham:

*It's simply great music! I'm actually a Motown artist myself having had a couple of albums released through the label so I've had the chance to work alongside some of the Motown greats including Lamont Dozier. He played a very big part, writing a significant amount of hits, absolute classics in fact, that will forever go on to stand the test of time! There was such a high quality of talented artists performing amazing songs which is something you can never take away. That whole era of music will never be replaced which is why people will embrace it for years to come.*

### Wolverhampton Black History Month:

It seems they've been a real revival of interest in classic soul and R&B in recent years. Have you noticed a change in fan response?

#### Jaki Graham:

*I think there were some real feel good tracks that offer great nostalgia for fans who were a part of our journey as artists. There were some great songs with great production that have stood the test of time for people looking to enjoy that era all over again. They also bring families together as they're introducing the next generation to their early years. There's so much music that's also sampled from back then, which is why the younger audience are that much more open to feeling it too.*

### Wolverhampton Black History Month:

What does Black History Month mean to you?



**Jaki Graham:**

*There's so much Black History that people are unaware of so it's great to have a month where some of the significant individuals who helped to open doors and pave the way are recognised for their achievements. I'm honoured that you've noted me as being a part of it.*

**Wolverhampton Black History Month:**

You're from the West Midlands and act as University of Wolverhampton's Pro-Chancellor. What does the local area mean to you?

**Jaki Graham:**

*I was honoured to receive my Doctorate from the Uni, so to go on to be a Pro-Chancellor is very special to me. I'm not always in the country but when I am around I try to do as much as I can for them, to return the love they've shown me. Plus the work they do and the opportunities they create for their students is exceptional. The people of Wolverhampton also have a great spirit about them, and I'm proud to be able to say it's where I live.*

**Wolverhampton Black History Month:**

What do you have planned for your new album?

**Jaki Graham:**

*Well I'd like to think there's a little bit of something on there for everyone! Something that the whole family can enjoy. There's some great names linked with it too, who have written some really good material, which is exciting. It still has a classic Jaki feel about it but with a slightly more current twist. It's being released internationally so the plan is to tour with it both in the UK and Worldwide next year.*

# Black History Month

## Planning an event for Black History Month 2018?

To find out how you can get your event listed for free contact:

David Bennett  
The Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project,  
24 Cosgrove Walk, Pendeford,  
Wolverhampton, WV8 1YD.

Mobile: 07806461828  
Email: [blacklocalhistory@live.co.uk](mailto:blacklocalhistory@live.co.uk)

The Black History Month Events Group meets once a month between January and August. If you are interested in attending meetings of the Group contact David Bennett.

Why not log onto [www.blackhistoryandheritage.com](http://www.blackhistoryandheritage.com).

It is packed with interesting facts and articles on Black history in general and Black Wulfrunian history in particular. You can also find out about Black History Month events taking place in Wolverhampton this year.



To advertise on the website contact the number above.

### Website Powered by Huemmatics

We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

We welcome any comments, compliments or criticisms you may have about this publication or Black History Month in Wolverhampton. All enquiries will be dealt with promptly and where necessary, in confidence.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**WOLVERHAMPTON**  
KNOWLEDGE • INNOVATION • ENTERPRISE

**Can I transform  
my potential into  
a career?  
Course you can.**

# Open Day

Come to one of our  
Open Days to find out about  
the University of Opportunity

Visit: [wlv.ac.uk/opendays](http://wlv.ac.uk/opendays)

**#courseyoucan**

 @wlv\_uni

 /uniwolverhampton