



BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2025

STANDING
FIRM IN
POWER
AND PRIDE



IN COLLABORATION WITH



Welcome Statement

It is with great pride that we welcome you to the 2025 edition of Croydon's Black History Month Magazine. This year's theme, Standing Firm in Power and Pride, is a call to honour the resilience, courage, and achievements of our community. From the struggles of our ancestors to the triumphs of today, we continue to draw strength from our heritage and move forward with confidence, unity, and hope. This magazine is both a celebration of our culture and a reminder of the ongoing journey toward justice and equality.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our partnership group — Croydon Council, Croydon LSBU, Croydon NHS services, and the Windrush Generation Legacy Association — who have come together over the past three months to create a vibrant programme of workshops and activities. Their collaboration demonstrates the true spirit of Black History Month: coming together to uplift, educate, and inspire. May this year's celebrations encourage us all to stand firm in power and pride, as we continue shaping a future built on respect, dignity, and shared purpose.

Dr. Andrew Brown

Chief Executive Officer, Croydon BME Forum

IN COLLABORATION WITH



Nigerian Independence Day Wednesday 1st Oct Time:1pm Free (RSVP)

Venue : Outside Croydon Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon, CR0 1NX

You are invited to join The Worshipful, The Civic Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Richard Chatterjee, as he raises the Nigerian flag at the main flagpole outside Croydon Town Hall.

Please can you RSVP by noon, Wednesday 1st October 2025 to civcmayor@croydon.gov.uk.

Black History Month Flag raising Friday 3rd Oct Time:1pm Free (RSVP)

Venue : Outside Croydon Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon, CR0 1NX

You are invited to join The Worshipful, The Civic Mayor of Croydon and Councillor Richard Chatterjee to mark the start of Black History Month 2025. The flag will be raised at the main flagpole outside Croydon Town Hall. They will be joined by Croydon's Race Equality Network, equalities and partners.

Please can you RSVP by noon, Wednesday 1 October 2025 to civcmayor@croydon.gov.uk.

Black History Month launch event Friday 3rd Oct Time:5:30pm -8:30pm Free (RSVP)

Venue : London Southbank University 3 Wellesley Rd, Croydon CR0 2AG

You are invited to join us for an evening ceremony celebrating the launch of BHM. Brought to you by Croydon BME Forum, Croydon Council, LSBU, NHS Croydon and Windrush Generation League Association (WGLA). Expect keynote speakers, live performances, and more.

Tickets available on Eventbrite | Contact: Info@bmeforum.org

Exploring Alternative Medicine to Improve Black Health Outcomes

Tuesday 7th Oct Time:3pm -5pm Free

Venue : The Wellness Centre, Unit 0440/2, First floor, Whitgift Shopping Centre, Croydon, CR0 1LP.

This event will feature talks on healthy living and an open discussion on alternative medicine and social prescribing where community members will have the opportunity to talk about alternatives to health and social care, exploring ideas on how to improve their health. Refreshments will be provided.

Get in touch: Jessica@bmeforum.org

Young at Heart (BHM) Wednesday 8th Oct Time:3pm-4:30pm Free

Venue : Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3852076159> Meeting ID: 385 207 6159

This week we invite a special speaker to join us celebrating this year's Black History Month theme 'Standing firm in power and pride'.

Contact 07717002079 to be added to the Young at Heart WhatsApp group

Counselling in the Community Thursday 9th Oct Time:1pm-3pm Free

Venue : The Wellness Centre, Unit 0440/2, First floor, Whitgift Shopping Centre, Croydon, CR0 1LP.

The session will provide practical tools and techniques for managing and maintaining mental health, offering attendees strategies they can apply in everyday life.

The Reader

Friday 10th Oct

Time: 10am-12pm

Free

Venue : The Wellness Centre, Unit 0440/2, First floor, Whitgift Shopping Centre, Croydon, CRO 1LP.

For this year's BHM, The Reader hosts Colin Douglas, author of 'The Caribbean and the Second World War' and 'West Indian Women at War'.

His vital research uncovers the often-overlooked contributions of Caribbean people to the British war effort. This Black History Month, we explore the theme of 'Preserving the Narrative' by honouring these forgotten stories of courage and resilience, which are an essential part of both Black and British history."

Get in touch: johnbie@bmeforum.org /

Building Calm: Wellbeing Toolkit

Friday 10th Oct

Time: 2pm-4pm Free

Venue : The Wellness Centre, Unit 0440/2, First floor, Whitgift Shopping Centre, Croydon, CRO 1LP.

In this workshop, we will be building a wellbeing toolkit that attendees can take home with them. This toolkit can be used to improve general wellbeing or act as support when feeling low.

Get in touch: emhiphub@bmeforum.org

Family Art Day

Saturday 11th Oct

Time: 11am – 2pm

Free

Venue : The Wellness Centre, Unit 0440/2, First floor, Whitgift Shopping Centre, Croydon, CRO 1LP.

Join award-winning artist Sade, winner of the Supermalt Design Your Can 2025 competition, for a creative and educational art workshop. This session celebrates historical heroes through art, offering a fun, engaging environment for families to learn and create together. It's a perfect opportunity to explore heritage and creativity in a welcoming atmosphere.

Our Long-Term Conditions coordinator, Desta Pinks will provide free health checks for blood pressure, BMI measurements and Type 2 Diabetes risk assessment.

Get in touch: johnbie@bmeforum.org / 07923990644

Black Vendors Market

Saturday 11th Oct

Time: 10am – 5:30pm Free

Venue : The Wellness Centre, Unit 0440/2, First floor, Whitgift Shopping Centre, Croydon, CRO 1LP.

Discover unique products and support local Black-owned businesses at our next Black Vendors Market. The event will be soundtracked by Choice FM London, featuring sets from DJ MP Marcus and Lady Elemental—expect great music and conversation throughout the day!

Organised by the Windrush Generation Legacy Association

Intergenerational Cooking Class

Monday 13th Oct

Time: 4pm -6:30pm

Free

Venue : Cherry Hub, 171 St James's Road, Croydon, CRO 2BY

Exploring Afro-Caribbean cuisine and its influence on British dining culture today.

Tickets available on Eventbrite

Or email maame@bmeforum.org / johnbie@bmeforum.org

Intergenerational Care Event Tuesday 13th Oct Time: 10am– 2:30pm Free (BOOKING ESSENTIAL)

Venue : John Ruskin College Selsdon Park Rd, South Croydon CR2 8JJ

An intergenerational care event celebrating Black History Month, bringing together students and elders for a day of pampering, storytelling, and cultural reflection. Hosted at John Ruskin College, the event fosters meaningful connections across generations while honouring the rich heritage of the Black community.

To register email: Johnbie@bmeforum.org

Coffee Morning Thursday 16th Oct Time: 11am -1 pm Free

Venue : Croydon BME Forum, 56a Mitcham Road, CR0 1LP

Join us for a special Black History Month coffee morning to explore what this year's theme means for our community in Croydon. We'll celebrate and reflect on the local figures who best embody this year's message, in a warm and welcoming gathering courtesy of the Croydon BME Forum.

Get in touch: 07851 132 326 / Grace@bmeforum.org

Health MOT Thursday 16th Oct Time: 11am -1 pm Free

Venue : The Wellness Centre, Unit 0440/2, First floor, Whitgift Shopping Centre, Croydon, CR0 1LP.

In this session, a health professional will speak to the community and provide information on dealing with sickle cell, diabetes, improving sleep and minimising stress. There will also be information on how to access culturally competent mental health support.

Get in touch: emhiphub@bmeforum.org

An Insight into Systemic Racism Thursday 16th Oct Time: 6pm – 8pm Free

Venue : Croydon BME Forum, 56a Mitcham Road, CR0 1LP

Considering Black History Month, please join us for an engaging event for an opportunity to learn about system changes and race equity in mental health services, delivered by the Director of Kawaia Therapy and the Oremi Centre, Malcolm Phillips.

The event will inspire those who work in mental health settings to influence change, provide ways to approach working with systemic racism and break down the disparities that racialised communities experience to discover empowering solutions.

Our Long-Term Conditions coordinator, Desta Pinks will provide free health checks for blood pressure, BMI measurements and Type 2 Diabetes risk assessment.

Get in touch: tanya@bmeforum.org / croydoniag@bmeforum.org

The Sound of Croydon: Celebrating Samul Coleridge-Taylor

Saturday 18th Oct Time: 10am Free

Venue : Museum of Croydon, Katharine Street CR9 1ET

Join us at the Museum of Croydon in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912).

Open from 18 Oct – 31 Jan

Community Mental Health First Aider

Monday 20/ Tuesday 21 Oct Time: 10am – 4pm Free (BOOKING ESSENTIAL)

Venue : The Wellness Centre, Unit 0440/2, First floor, Whitgift Shopping Centre, Croydon, CR0 1LP.

Sign up for the upcoming two-day certified Mental Health First Aider course where you will learn how to support others who are experiencing emotional distress.

The training integrates culturally sensitive topics and discussion to give a diverse understanding of how to identify signs of mental health from initial contact to supporting someone towards further help.

Delivered by Amanda Townsend, a qualified psychotherapist and Mental Health First Aider trainer.

Information about how to join the Croydon Independent Advisory Group and get involved with the Patient Carer Race Equality Framework will be available on the day.

Book your free place via Eventbrite. Limited spaces available.

Our Long-Term Conditions coordinator, Desta Pinks will provide free health checks for blood pressure, BMI measurements and Type 2 Diabetes risk assessment.

Get in touch: tanya@bmeforum.org / croydoniag@bmeforum.org

Windrush Claims and Advocacy workshop

Monday 20th Oct Time: 11am -1pm Free

Venue : The Wellness Centre, Unit 0440/2, First floor, Whitgift Shopping Centre, Croydon, CR0 1LP.

Join us for the Compensation scheme drop-in/surgery. Croydon BME Forum aims to guide you through the compensation process. Started an application and hit a hurdle? Starting your application and don't know where to start? Pop in.

Get in touch: 07923 990644 | Email: windrush@bmeforum.org

Finding Calm Through Creativity

Monday 20th Oct Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm Free

Venue : Zoom

An 8-week online course to help you pause, breathe and reconnect – through mindfulness art.

Bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/finding-calm>

A Safer Journey to Motherhood: Supporting Black Women's Health

Thrusday 23rd Oct Time: 11am – 1pm (arrival from 10:40am) Free

Venue : The Wellness Centre, Unit 0440/2, First floor, Whitgift Shopping Centre, Croydon, CR0 1LP.

This event will involve a talk delivered by a black midwife and community organisations, Q&A session on issues faced during pregnancy and preparation for motherhood such as breastfeeding, caring for a newborn as a first-time mother and isolation. Refreshments will be provided

Get in touch: Jessica@bmeforum.org

The Reader

Friday 24th Oct

Time: 10am-12pm

Free

Venue : The Wellness Centre, Unit 0440/2, First floor, Whitgift Shopping Centre, Croydon, CR0 1LP.

Join us for a powerful morning of poetry and conversation as we welcome local poet R.T. Chiwuta. Hear him read from his celebrated work, *Ottile Rose*, a profound observation and appreciation of life, identity, and heritage.

This Black History Month, explore the stories that shape us.

• Live Readings & Discussion • Q&A Session • Book Signing

Raleigh Chiwuta is the Founder and CEO of Dichotic Dilemma Social Enterprise Ltd, which promotes inclusive leadership. A practising MRI Radiographer and master's student in Ethics and Global Justice.

Get in touch: 07851 132 326 / johnbie@bmeforum.org

The Windrush Generation Legacy Association (WGLA) & Partners Stage Show

Saturday 25th Oct

Time: 12:30pm – 5pm

Free

Venue : The Wellness Centre, Unit 0440/2, First floor, Whitgift Shopping Centre, Croydon, CR0 1LP.

Join us for a celebration of Black History Month through a showcase of music and talent. We invite you and your family to enjoy the event.

Black History Month Concert

Saturday 25th Oct

Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Adults £22 Members £17 Teens £10 Under 10s Free (Ticket includes entry, hot drink & cake)

Venue : Bedford Hall, 72-74 Wellesley Road, CR0 2AR (limited parking onsite)

Join us for a night of singing, dancing and more from a variety of performers!
Brought to you by The Association of Jamaica UK Trust (AOJUK).

Tickets can be purchased from www.aojuk.co.uk, Eventbrite, AOJUK committee members or by calling 07368 399801

Voice of Black Opera (VOBO) competition

Saturday 25th Oct

Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Ticket: £15 – £35

Venue : Croydon Fairfield Halls, Park Lane, Croydon CR0 1JD

Presented by the Black British Classical Foundation, the Voice of Black Opera (VOBO) returns in 2025 to celebrate the Commonwealth's most promising Black and South Asian operatic talent. Twelve singers will be shortlisted and brought to the UK for a week of performances, mentorship and masterclasses, culminating in a Gala Final at Fairfield Halls, Croydon on 25 October 2025.

To see the finalist compete for the prize: 0300 500 0595

Film screening: Summer of Soul (PG)

Tuesday 28th Oct

Time: 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Venue: David Lean Cinema Katharine St, Croydon CR9 1ET | Ticket: £6 (BOOKING ESSENTIAL)

Dubbed 'Black Woodstock', this film resurrects the legendary 1969 Harlem festival with stunning performances that were lost for decades. Screenings for Black History Month in partnership with Croydon BME Forum, tickets £6. (70 seats)
Cinema enquiries: 020 3411 1243

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR 150 OCTOBER EVENTS

SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR 150

Join the celebration. Discover the history. Be part of the legacy.

Croydon is celebrating the 150th anniversary of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor with a landmark cultural programme, including the creation of brand-new work by artists and musicians.



The Sound of Croydon: Celebrating Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Saturday 18 October 2025 – Saturday 31 January 2026

Free

Time: Drop-in during Museum opening hours

How to book: No advance booking require Venue: Museum of Croydon

Explore a brand new, interactive exhibition at the Museum of Croydon celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912).

The Black British composer and conductor was the son of a Sierra Leonean doctor and an English mother and lived most of his life in Croydon.

A graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, Coleridge-Taylor's compositions continue to inspire musicians today.

There will also be a programme of October half-term activities, downloadable family activity packs, Heritage Trail and schools' programme.

To find out more, please visit the Museum of Croydon website. www.museumofcroydon.com

The BRIT School Takeover

Free

Date: Saturday 18 October Time: 11am – 4pm

Venue: Croydon Clocktower

How to book tickets No advance booking required

Witness the next generation of artists, performers, composers and creators take to the stage...

The immensely talented students of **The BRIT School** are delving into the Croydon Archives and the collection at the Royal College of Music, to unearth the story of the great Croydon composer and conductor, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

Inspired by his extraordinary life and legacy, the students will create brand new work ranging from dance, music, drama and film, which will be performed at Croydon Clocktower on Sat 18 Oct.

Experience their incredible talent and hear Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's story told from the voices of Croydon's emerging young artists.

Find out more at www.culturecroydon.com

London Mozart Players: Samuel Coleridge-Taylor at 150

Date: Sunday 19 October **Time:** 6.00pm **Venue :** Fairfield Halls

How to book tickets / Price

Tickets are available now, priced from £5. Book online at www.fairfield.co.uk

Immerse yourself in a powerful musical celebration of Croydon's most famous composer.

This vibrant concert features new music and performances from **Tunde Jegede**, whose unique approach draws on contemporary musical styles from both Europe and Africa.

Violinist **Braimah Kanneh-Mason** brings fresh energy to Coleridge-Taylor's Violin Concerto - one of the last pieces of music Coleridge-Taylor wrote before he died in 1912 alongside soul-stirring performances of African Spiritual-inspired songs from the electrifying **Croydon SDA Gospel Choir**.

Presented by London Mozart Players, Resident Orchestra at Fairfield Halls, and Croydon Council.



CROYDON CELEBRATES



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH
2025**

STANDING FIRM IN POWER AND PRIDE

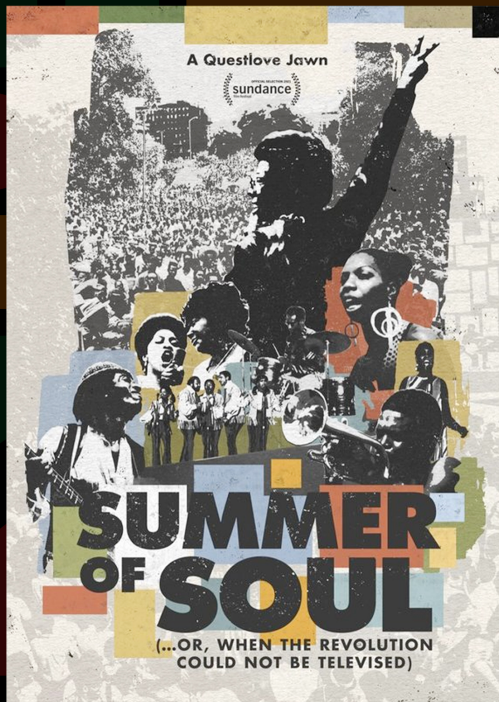
BLACK HISTORY MONTH FILM

Taking place at the same time as the Woodstock festival, the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival was also filmed, but with no Hollywood backing the tapes languished in storage.

They now form the basis of this documentary, subtitled 'When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised', which mixes historical perspectives with musical performances by Sly and the Family Stone, Nina Simone, B.B. King, Stevie Wonder, The Staples Singers, Mahalia Jackson, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Hugh Masekela and many more.

Black History Month screening in conjunction with Croydon BHM Partnership

2021 USA 118 mins



VENUE: DAVID LEAN CINEMA

TICKETS £6

TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2025 | 2.30PM & 7.30PM

To book tickets@ www.davidleancinema.org.uk/listings/
Contact : info@bmeforum.org or visit www.cbmeforum.org

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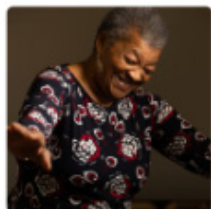


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The Wellness Centre
Unit 1040 - 1042
1st Floor Whitgift Centre , Croydon CRO 1LP

Croydon Health And Wellbeing Space
Unit 1101-1102, Whitgift Centre , Croydon CRO 1TY

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