



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

RECLAIMING NARRATIVES

Black History Month Directory of Events

Welcome to Croydon's Black History Month 2024 Events Directory!

This October, Croydon proudly celebrates Black History Month with a diverse array of events honouring the rich culture, history, and achievements of the black community. From inspiring talks and vibrant performances to art exhibitions, workshops, and family-friendly activities, there's something for everyone. Join us in commemorating the past, celebrating the present, and building a more inclusive future.

Whether you're looking to learn, reflect, or simply enjoy, this directory will guide you to the best events happening across Croydon throughout Black History Month 2024. Explore, engage, and be inspired!

IN PARTNERSHIP





Black History Month Launch Event

In the London Borough of Croydon, we will be celebrating the achievements and culture of Black African and Caribbean people during the month of October.

This year, Croydon will celebrate the pride, history, and rich diversity of the Black community. This is reflected in this year's theme: "Reclaiming Narratives": addressing historical inaccuracies and seizing control of narratives by highlighting stories, allegories, and histories.

Date: Wednesday 2nd October 2024

Start Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm

Location: Croydon University Hospital, Oasis Restaurant, 1st Floor, Main Building

To Book: [Black History Month 2024 "Reclaiming Narratives Tickets, Wed, Oct 2, 2024 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

RSVP: Please do let us know by Wednesday 25th September if you are able to attend, along with any access or dietary requirements and the names of any guests.

IN PARTNERSHIP





Young At Heart

Pamper Day Beauty Treatments for the Over 65s at John Ruskin College

Treat yourself to a well-deserved day of relaxation and rejuvenation! Our professional beauty therapy students at John Ruskin College are offering a special Pamper Day designed exclusively for those aged 65 and over.

Enjoy a range of treatments in a calm, welcoming environment, including:

- **Facials** to refresh and hydrate your skin
- **Manicures & Pedicures** for beautifully groomed hands and feet
- **Gentle Massages** to relieve tension and soothe tired muscles
- **Hair Styling** to leave you looking and feeling fabulous

All treatments are performed by our highly trained students under expert supervision, ensuring you receive quality care and attention. This is the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind, and enjoy some "me time" while supporting the next generation of beauty professionals.

Date: Wednesday 2nd October 2024

Time: 10:00am-4:00pm

Location: John Ruskin College, Selsdon Park Road, South Croydon CR2 8JJ

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Spaces are limited, so book your pamper session today!

In partnership with the Manju Shahul-Hameed Foundation for Mental Health.

IN PARTNERSHIP





Neurodiversity Expo: Embracing Strength in Diversity

Join Us for a Celebration of Our Understanding of the Many Ways We Think and Act!

Discover the beauty of human diversity and the unique perspectives that shape how we think and act! This event is a celebration of the different ways we approach life, solve problems, and connect with others. Through engaging activities, insightful discussions, and interactive workshops, we'll explore how our diverse thinking styles and behaviours contribute to a richer, more inclusive world.

Whether you're curious about psychology, interested in personal growth, or simply want to celebrate the many ways we understand ourselves and each other, this event is for you!

Come celebrate the power of our minds and how our differences make us stronger together!

Date: Thursday 3rd October 2024

Time: 9:30am-4:00pm

Location: St. Mary's Conference Centre

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

To Book: [Neurodiversity Expo 2024 Tickets, Thu 3 Oct 2024 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

IN PARTNERSHIP





Sip & Paint: Art Meets History

Join us for an uplifting and engaging session where art meets identity!

In this special Sip & Paint event, you'll have the opportunity to create artwork that reflects your Black identity and experience living in the UK. Whether you're a seasoned artist or a complete beginner, this relaxed, social session is a chance to express your unique story through painting while sipping on your favourite drink.

Guided by experienced artists, you'll be encouraged to reflect on your personal history, culture, and sense of belonging, creating meaningful pieces that celebrate your heritage. All materials are provided—just bring your creativity and an open mind!

Date: Friday 4th October 2024

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Location: Wellness Centre, 1st Floor, Whitgift Centre, Croydon CR0 1LP

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

To Book: [Sip and Paint Tickets, Fri 4 Oct 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

IN PARTNERSHIP





Caring For Hair

Discover the rich history and beauty of Afro hair in this insightful and empowering session led by hair care expert **Lorna Jones**. From traditional styles to modern trends, explore the cultural significance of Afro hair and gain a deeper understanding of how to care for and embrace your natural texture.

During this session, you will:

- Learn about the historical journey of Afro hair
- Explore hair care techniques tailored to your texture
- Get practical advice on maintaining healthy, beautiful hair

Whether you're looking to reconnect with your roots or simply want to know more about caring for your hair, this event is perfect for anyone interested in Afro hair and its heritage.

Join us for an inspiring look at the journey of Afro hair and celebrate the beauty of your natural self!

Date: Saturday 5th October 2024

Time: 1:00pm-2:30pm

Location: Wellness Centre, 1st Floor, Whitgift Centre, Croydon CR0 1LP

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with the Caring For Hair.

IN PARTNERSHIP





Sickle Cell Awareness Workshop

Join us for an informative and impactful workshop on **Sickle Cell Awareness** delivered by expert **Dr. Julianna Onwumere**.

This session will cover:

- Understanding what Sickle Cell is and how it affects individuals
- The importance of early diagnosis and effective treatment
- Support resources for those living with Sickle Cell and their families
- How we can raise awareness and support the Sickle Cell community

Whether you're directly affected by Sickle Cell or want to learn more about this genetic condition, this workshop will provide valuable insights and practical advice.

Join Dr. Onwumere for an empowering talk that will deepen your understanding and help make a difference in Sickle Cell awareness!

Date: Wednesday 9th October 2024

Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

Location: Zoom

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with the Kings College London.

IN PARTNERSHIP





Gospel Music Workshop Choir: Lift Your Voice in Praise!

Join us for a soul-stirring gospel sing-along that will lift your heart and spirit! Whether you're an experienced singer or simply love the joy of gospel music, this is your chance to come together in celebration and song.

What to Expect:

- Uplifting gospel hymns that inspire hope and joy
- A warm, welcoming community of singers and music lovers

No experience is necessary—just bring your voice and an open heart! Let's fill the room with praise, harmony, and the powerful sound of voices united in faith.

We can't wait to sing with you!

Dates: Thursdays 10th, 17th, 24th October 2024

Performance Date: Sunday 27th October 2024

Time: 7:30pm-9:00pm

Location: Croydon BME Forum, 56A Mitcham Road, Croydon CR0 3RG

To Book: Email info@bmeforum.org

Spaces are limited, so book your pamper session today!

Mountain Movers Ministries, in partnership with Croydon BME Forum.

IN PARTNERSHIP





World Mental Health Day

Join Us for an Inspiring Afternoon of Conversation, Connection, and Community

Come along for an afternoon focused on one of the most important topics in today's professional world – mental health. Enjoy a delicious brunch while engaging in meaningful discussions about mental wellbeing, stress management, and fostering supportive workplaces.

Whether you're sharing insights, learning from others, or simply connecting with like-minded professionals, this event offers a unique opportunity to make a positive impact on your career and your workplace.

Event Highlights:

- Insightful conversations on mental wellbeing
- Tips on managing stress and creating supportive environments
- Networking with professionals who value mental health

Date: Thursday 10th October 2024

Time: 12:00pm-2:00pm

Location: Wellness Centre, 1st Floor, Whitgift Centre, Croydon CR0 1LP

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

To Book: [Beyond The Desk - Prioritising Mental Health in the Workplace Tickets, Thu, Oct 10, 2024 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

IN PARTNERSHIP





WomanzVue: Retrieving Narratives

Join us for an inspiring evening as Dr Velma McClymont discusses her latest collection, *Walk-Foot Woman and Other Poems*, alongside her compelling historical novel, *Little River (1731-1712)*, which explores the lives of Scottish sugar barons in Jamaica.

As a Windrush child, Dr McClymont will also share her personal journey, reflecting on her experience of arriving in England in the late 1960s.

Special Guest Appearances:

- Resident Historian, Brother Cecil Gutzmore
- Educator, Olga Mathews
- Academic, Dr Audrey Allwood

Event Highlights:

- Insightful discussion of *Walk-Foot Woman and Other Poems*
- Exploration of the historical context behind *Little River (1731-1712)*
- Reflections on Dr McClymont's Windrush experience
- Thought-provoking contributions from distinguished guests
- Opportunity to purchase signed copies of both books

Date: Saturday 12th October 2024

Time: 2:00pm-5:00pm

Location: TBC

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with WomanzVue.

IN PARTNERSHIP





WomanzVue: Reclaiming Narratives

Join us for an inspiring evening as Dr Velma McClymont discusses her latest collection, *Walk-Foot Woman and Other Poems*, alongside her compelling historical novel, *Little River (1731-1712)*, which explores the lives of Scottish sugar barons in Jamaica.

As a Windrush child, Dr McClymont will also share her personal journey, reflecting on her experience of arriving in England in the late 1960s.

Event Highlights:

- Insightful discussion of *Walk-Foot Woman and Other Poems*
- Exploration of the historical context behind *Little River (1731-1712)*
- Reflections on Dr McClymont's Windrush experience
- Thought-provoking contributions from distinguished guests
- Opportunity to purchase signed copies of both books

Date: Sunday 13th October 2024

Time: 10:00am-1:00pm

Location: Parish of Holy Saviour, 115 St. Saviour's Road, Croydon CR0 2XF

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with WomanzVue.

IN PARTNERSHIP





London Southbank University Business Networking Event

Join us at LSBU Croydon this Black History Month for an exciting celebration of local Black-owned businesses and charities supporting minority communities. This event offers a fantastic opportunity to explore a diverse range of products and services from Black entrepreneurs, while also learning about the impactful work of charities dedicated to uplifting underrepresented groups.

Expect lively music, a welcoming atmosphere, and a chance to network, support, and engage with the inspiring individuals and businesses that are making a difference in your community. Whether you're looking to discover new products, make connections, or simply celebrate Black excellence, this is an event not to be missed!

Date: Tuesday 15th October 2024

Time: 10:00am-2:00pm

Location: LSBU, Electric House, Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR0 1LB

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

IN PARTNERSHIP





Cancer Awareness Coffee Morning

Join us for an **educational** and **engaging** coffee morning dedicated to raising cancer awareness while celebrating the extraordinary achievements of Black individuals throughout history.

This event is an opportunity to:

- Learn about cancer awareness, prevention, and early detection
- Honour the contributions of Black leaders and trailblazers across various fields
- Engage in meaningful discussions about health, heritage, and community
- Connect with others over coffee in a supportive and uplifting environment

Whether you're looking to gain knowledge about cancer or celebrate Black excellence, this event will inspire and empower you.

Come together for an uplifting morning of awareness, education, and celebration!

Date: Thursday 17th October 2024

Time: 11:00am-1:00pm

Location: Croydon BME Forum, 56A Mitcham Road, Croydon CR0 3RG

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with the NHS Cancer Awareness Team

IN PARTNERSHIP





George Floyd Race Matters Pledge Event

Join us for an important gathering to **reaffirm your commitment** to the **George Floyd Race Matters Pledge** and stand together for racial equality and justice.

This event is an opportunity to:

- Reflect on the impact of George Floyd’s legacy and the global movement for racial justice
- Reaffirm your pledge to combat racial inequality and uphold the principles of the **Race Matters** movement
- Engage in meaningful discussions about the ongoing fight for justice, equity, and change
- Connect with others who are dedicated to promoting racial equality and making a difference in their communities

Together, let’s recommit to making lasting change and ensuring that **Race Matters** in every aspect of our society.

Date: Friday 18th October 2024

Time: 1:00pm-2:30pm

Location: Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with Croydon Council

IN PARTNERSHIP





WomanzVue & Men’s Walk N Talk: Reclaiming Narratives

Join us for an inspiring evening as Dr Velma McClymont discusses her latest collection, *Walk-Foot Woman and Other Poems*, alongside her compelling historical novel, *Little River (1731-1712)*, which explores the lives of Scottish sugar barons in Jamaica.

As a Windrush child, Dr McClymont will also share her personal journey, reflecting on her experience of arriving in England in the late 1960s.

Hosted by:

- Dirg AAB-Richards

Special Guest Appearances:

- Resident Historian, Brother Cecil Gutzmore
- Educator, Olga Mathews
- Academic, Dr Audrey Allwood

Event Highlights:

- Insightful discussion of *Walk-Foot Woman and Other Poems*
- Exploration of the historical context behind *Little River (1731-1712)*
- Reflections on Dr McClymont’s Windrush experience
- Thought-provoking contributions from distinguished guests
- Opportunity to purchase signed copies of both books

Date: Friday 18th October 2024

Time: 5:00pm-9:00pm

Location: 3Space, International House, 6 Canterbury Crescent, Brixton SW9 7QD

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with WomanzVue.

IN PARTNERSHIP





WomanzVue: Reclaiming Narratives

Join us for an inspiring evening with Dr Velma McClymont as she discusses her latest collection, *Walk-Foot Woman and Other Poems*, and her captivating historical novel, *Little River (1731-1712)*, which delves into the lives of Scottish sugar barons in Jamaica.

As a Windrush child, Dr McClymont will also share her personal journey, reflecting on her experience of coming to England in the late 1960s.

Event Highlights:

- Insightful discussion of *Walk-Foot Woman and Other Poems*
- Exploration of the historical context behind *Little River (1731-1712)*
- Reflections on Dr McClymont's Windrush story
- Opportunity to purchase signed copies of both books

Date: Tuesday 22nd October 2024

Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

Location: Nunhead Library 88-138 Gordon Road, London SE15 3RB

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

To Book:

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

IN PARTNERSHIP





PCREF Anti-Racism Community Engagement Event

Join us for an insightful **Patient and Carer Race Equality Framework (PCREF)** event, where we'll provide the latest updates on our efforts to improve mental health services for racialised communities. This event is an opportunity for open dialogue, feedback, and collaboration as we continue working towards more equitable and inclusive care.

What to Expect:

- Updates on our PCREF initiatives
- Discussions on improving mental health services for diverse communities
- Opportunities to share your thoughts and experiences

If you have any questions, email: PCREFapproach@slam.nhs.uk.

Date: Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Time: 5:00pm-8:30pm

Location: Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

To Book: [PCREF's Anti-Racism Community Engagement Event Tickets, Wed, Oct 23, 2024 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

IN PARTNERSHIP





Film Screening: Sing Sing

We are excited to invite you to a **captivating screening** of the film *Sing Sing* as part of Croydon's Black History Month celebrations.

Sing Sing follows the compelling story of **Divine G**, a man imprisoned for a crime he didn't commit, who discovers a renewed sense of purpose by joining a theatre group alongside other incarcerated men. As he bonds with fellow inmates, including a wary newcomer, this powerful film delves into themes of **resilience**, **identity**, and **transformation**.

After the screening, there will be time for a **brief discussion** where we can reflect and share our thoughts on the film, exploring its deep messages of hope and personal growth.

Join us for this inspiring cinematic experience that showcases the strength of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

Date: Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Time: 1:00pm-2:30pm

Location: David Lean Cinema, Katharine Street, Croydon CR9 1ET

Cost: £5 per person

Booking: Essential

To Book: [Listings - The David Lean Cinema](#)

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with Croydon Council, London Southbank University, and Croydon Health Services.

IN PARTNERSHIP





Health Check Day

We invite you to join us for **Health Check Day** - a day dedicated to promoting health, wellness, and awareness within our community. Take advantage of **free health services** and **resources** while we honour the significant contributions of Black communities throughout history.

What's happening:

- **Free Health Screenings:** Including blood pressure checks, cholesterol tests, fast HIV testing, sexual health advice, and STI test kits—all provided by trained medical professionals.
- **Wellness Workshops:** Participate in sessions on mental health, nutrition, fitness, and self-care.
- **Expert Talks:** Hear from healthcare professionals about the unique health challenges facing Black communities, with tips on prevention and maintaining overall well-being.

This event offers a valuable opportunity to take charge of your health, access free resources, and gain important insights into leading a healthier life. Let's come together to support **wellness** in our community while recognising the profound impact of **Black history** on health and society.

Date: Thursday 24th October 2024

Time: 10:00am-4:00pm

Location: Wellness Centre, 1st Floor, Whitgift Centre, Croydon CR0 1LP

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

To Book: [BME Health Check Day Tickets, Thu 24 Oct 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

IN PARTNERSHIP





Reclaiming Narratives featuring The Ubuntu Creatives Fair

To mark this year's Black History Month theme, *Reclaiming Narratives*, Croydon Council is partnering with Fashion Meets Music for a weekend of free events celebrating the rich contributions of Black individuals and communities, and uncovering hidden heritage stories.

The weekend will feature thought-provoking talks and debates, dynamic dance performances, exhibitions, children's arts and music workshops, and captivating storytelling sessions.

Supporting the event is The Ubuntu Creatives Fair—a two-day market showcasing a wide range of natural and handmade products, including beauty treatments, crafts, gifts, food and drink, clothing, and artwork, all from Black-owned businesses.

Date: Friday 25th October 2024 to Sunday 27th October 2024

Time: 11:00am-4:00pm

Location: Braithwaite Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Spaces are limited, so book your place today

In partnership with the Croydon Council and Fashion Meets Music.

IN PARTNERSHIP





You Can Get It If You Really Want

Join us for a special celebration honouring the legendary Desmond Dekker, featuring his daughter, Desrene Dacres, and members of his iconic band, The Aces.

Experience an unforgettable evening as Desrene pays tribute to her father's legacy through music and personal stories. The tribute will last around an hour, followed by a vinyl DJ set from Drop Da'Biscuit, spinning classic tracks into the night.

Stay for the late-night opening of the *Rewind* exhibition, where you can explore Desmond Dekker's most famous outfits and instruments up close. Don't miss this unique event celebrating the King of Ska!

Date: Friday 25th October 2024

Time: 7:00pm-10:30pm

Location: Braithwaite Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Spaces are limited, so book your place today

In partnership with the Croydon Council.

IN PARTNERSHIP





African and Caribbean Gala Evening

Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating African and Caribbean culture on **Friday, 25th October 2024**.

Enjoy a vibrant evening filled with **storytelling, dancing, delicious food, and traditional games**. Experience captivating stories and fables from African and Caribbean countries, showcasing the richness of these diverse cultures.

Don't miss this exciting cultural celebration!

Date: Friday 25th October 2024

Time: TBC

Location: Wellness Centre, 1st Floor, Whitgift Centre, Croydon CR0 1LP

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with Croydon Health Services.

IN PARTNERSHIP





Black Business Fair

Join us for a vibrant celebration of Black entrepreneurship and community! With over 20 unique stalls, you'll have the chance to support and explore a wide range of Black-owned businesses, offering everything from fashion, beauty, and art to food, services, and more.

This event is not just about business - it's an opportunity to reflect, connect, and uplift our community through creativity and collaboration. Don't miss out on the chance to show your support and celebrate Black excellence.

Join us in creating a community that celebrates, empowers, and supports women in business!

Date: Saturday 26th October 2024

Time: 10:00am-5:00pm

Location: Wellness Centre, 1st Floor, Whitgift Centre, Croydon CR0 1LP

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

To Book: [Black History Month BME Business Circle Tickets, Sat 26 Oct 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with Women's Business Circle.

IN PARTNERSHIP





Black Rainbow Ink Project

Black Rainbow Ink offers a safe space for Black LGBTQIA+ individuals to connect, create, and heal together. We believe in the power of unity. While it's rare to see collaboration between Black lesbian and gay men, it is always inspiring, transformative, and powerful when it happens.

Our course uses creative writing as a tool to help unlock your purpose and potential. This is not about spelling or grammar—it's about your vision and intention.

To participate, you must identify as Black and LGBTQIA+ and be available for the workshop dates.

Date: Saturday 26th October 2024

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free

Booking: Essential

Sign-Up Deadline: Saturday 12th October 2024

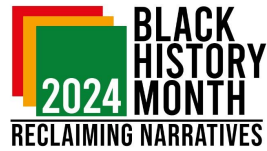
To Book: Email ehtamard@outlook.com with a one-page explanation of how this course could benefit your well-being at this time.

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with Black Gay Ink.

IN PARTNERSHIP





Black History Month Concert

Join us for a celebration of Black History Month!

Come along to enjoy an evening filled with talented singers, dancers, poetry recitals, a DJ sound system, and a steel pan band, along with much more!

Refreshments (tea, coffee, and cake) are included in the ticket price, and patties will also be on sale.

Date: Saturday 26th October 2024

Time: 7:30pm-9:30pm

Location: Bedford Hall, 72-74 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR0 2AR

Cost: £20 – adults, £10 – under 16s, free – children under 10

Booking: Essential

Sign-Up Deadline: Saturday 12th October 2024

To Book: [AOJUK BLACK HISTORY MONTH FUNDRAISER CONCERT! LIVE MUSIC & PERFORMANCES! Tickets, Sat 26 Oct 2024 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with The Associations of Jamaicans Trust.

IN PARTNERSHIP





Film Screening: Rob Peace

Join us for a powerful and thought-provoking film screening of *Rob Peace*, directed by and starring the acclaimed Chiwetel Ejiofor. This gripping film, based on a real-life story, follows the journey of a brilliant young man and Yale student who puts his promising future on the line to support his family.

Rob Peace tells the poignant story of a talented and ambitious young man who is determined to make a difference in his own life and that of his loved ones. As he navigates the challenges of his elite education at Yale, he faces difficult choices that threaten to derail his dreams but also reveal the strength of his character and the depth of his commitment to his family.

Why Attend?

- **Inspiring Story:** Experience the true story of courage, sacrifice, and resilience.
- **Engaging Performance:** Witness Chiwetel Ejiofor's remarkable direction and performance.
- **Thoughtful Discussion:** Join us after the screening for a discussion on the themes of the film and its real-life implications.

Date: Wednesday 30th October 2024

Time: 6:00pm-9:30pm

Location: David Lean Cinema, Katharine Street, Croydon CR9 1ET

Cost: £5 per person

Booking: Essential

To Book: [Listings - The David Lean Cinema](#)

Spaces are limited, so book your place today!

In partnership with Croydon Council, London Southbank University, and Croydon Health Services.

IN PARTNERSHIP

