





**“Reclaiming Narratives is about:
Sharing untold stories of success.
Honouring heroes.
Celebrating overlooked Black British
contributions and achievements.”**

**Cherron Inko-Tariah, MBE
Author and editor of Black History
Month magazine
(July 2024)**



**The theme for this year's
Black History Month is
Reclaiming Narratives.**



**The following chosen
subjects each have a
narrative that is
reclaimed and
celebrated.**

Mary Seacole 1805 – 1881

“Mary Seacole stands as an emblem of indomitable spirit in the annals of British history.

“Today, her legacy inspires countless hearts, reminding us that courage, combined with compassion, can reshape narratives and redefine heroes in every generation.”

**Britain's Undaunted
Beacon of Compassion and
Bravery**





**Flight Lieutenant Emanuel
Peter John Adeniyi Thomas
1914 - 1945**



**Image: Flight Lieutenant Emanuel Peter John
Adeniyi (© IWM CH 7168)**



Image: Flight Lieutenant Emanuel Peter John Adeniyi (© IWM CH 7168)

Emanuel Peter John Adeniyi Thomas, born in Lagos, became the first West African officer in the RAF. He volunteered for service in 1942, after seeing the exploits of pilots during the Battle of Britain. He was promoted to Flight Lieutenant in September 1944.

In January 1945, Peter and trainee radio operator Frank Stokes, crashed into the Brecon Beacons mountain range in South Wales, due to bad weather. Although he managed to stagger out from the wreckage and walked for two miles seeking help for himself and Stokes, Peter succumbed to his injuries.

Emanuel is buried in Haycombe Cemetery, Bath in the west of England. His parents wrote his epitaph: "Forgive my grief for one removed, thy creature whom I found so fair".



Amma Asante

“Amma Asante MBE, a radiant British filmmaker with Ghanaian roots, crafts narratives that transcend borders, uniting audiences in emotion and reflection.

“Her legacy whispers a powerful mantra: Authentic stories have the power to heal, unite, and illuminate the tapestry of human existence.”

Crafting Cinematic Echoes Of Authenticity





Annie Yellowe Palma
1962 - 2022

Image: Annie Yellowe Palma ©Belfast Media





Image: Annie Yellowe Palma ©Belfast Media

Annie Yellowe Palma was a British poet, author and child protection advocate. She was born in Liverpool to an Irish mother and Nigerian father and was the only girl among her six siblings, all fathered by different men. Annie was brought up in Portadown, County Armagh. Her parents separated when she was four and she never saw her father again; he died two years later. Annie was regularly bullied at school due to her mixed heritage, and was often neglected by her alcoholic mother.

Annie moved to London in 1986 and became a qualified social worker. She published an autobiography, “For the Love of a Mother: The Black Children of Ulster” (2017), documenting her experiences during the 1960s and 1970s and how her black family coped with the sectarianism and violence during the Troubles.

Annie died in December 2022, aged 60.

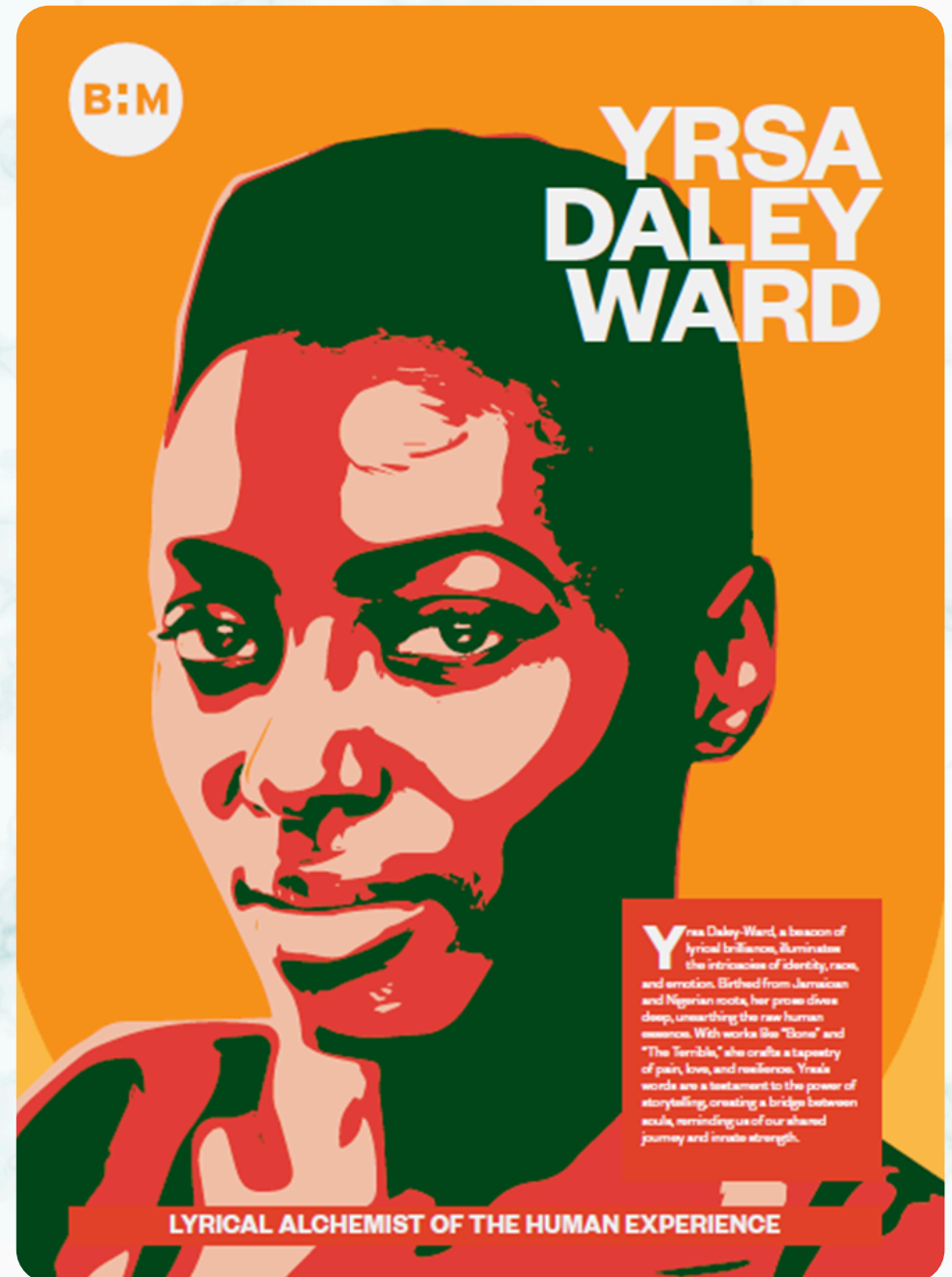


Yrsa Daley Ward

“Yrsa Daley-Ward, a beacon of lyrical brilliance, illuminates the intricacies of identity, race and emotion.

“Yrsa’s words are a testament to the power of storytelling, creating a bridge between souls, reminding us of our shared journey and innate strength.”

Lyrical Alchemist of the Human Experience





**Leslie Arthur Julien 'Hutch'
Hutchinson
1900 – 1969**

Image: Leslie Hutchinson © IMDb





Image: Leslie Hutchinson © IMDb

Leslie 'Hutch' Hutchinson was born in Grenada and became one of the biggest global cabaret entertainers of the 1920s and 1930s. He went to New York in 1916 and began playing piano and singing in bars. He joined a big band led by Henry "Broadway" Jones, entertaining members of high society such as the Vanderbilts. 'Hutch' left America for Paris in 1924 and soon became a friend and lover of the songwriter Cole Porter, as well as a favourite interpreter of his songs.

'Hutch' became the favourite singer of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII, and was a major star in Britain during the 1930s and popular performer on BBC radio. His career faded due to the rise in popularity of rock 'n' roll.

'Hutch' died in New End hospital, Hampstead, in 1969. His daughter Gabrielle, unveiled a Blue Plaque in 2012, in commemoration of Hutch, at 31 Steele's Road, Belsize Park, where he lived from 1929 to 1967.

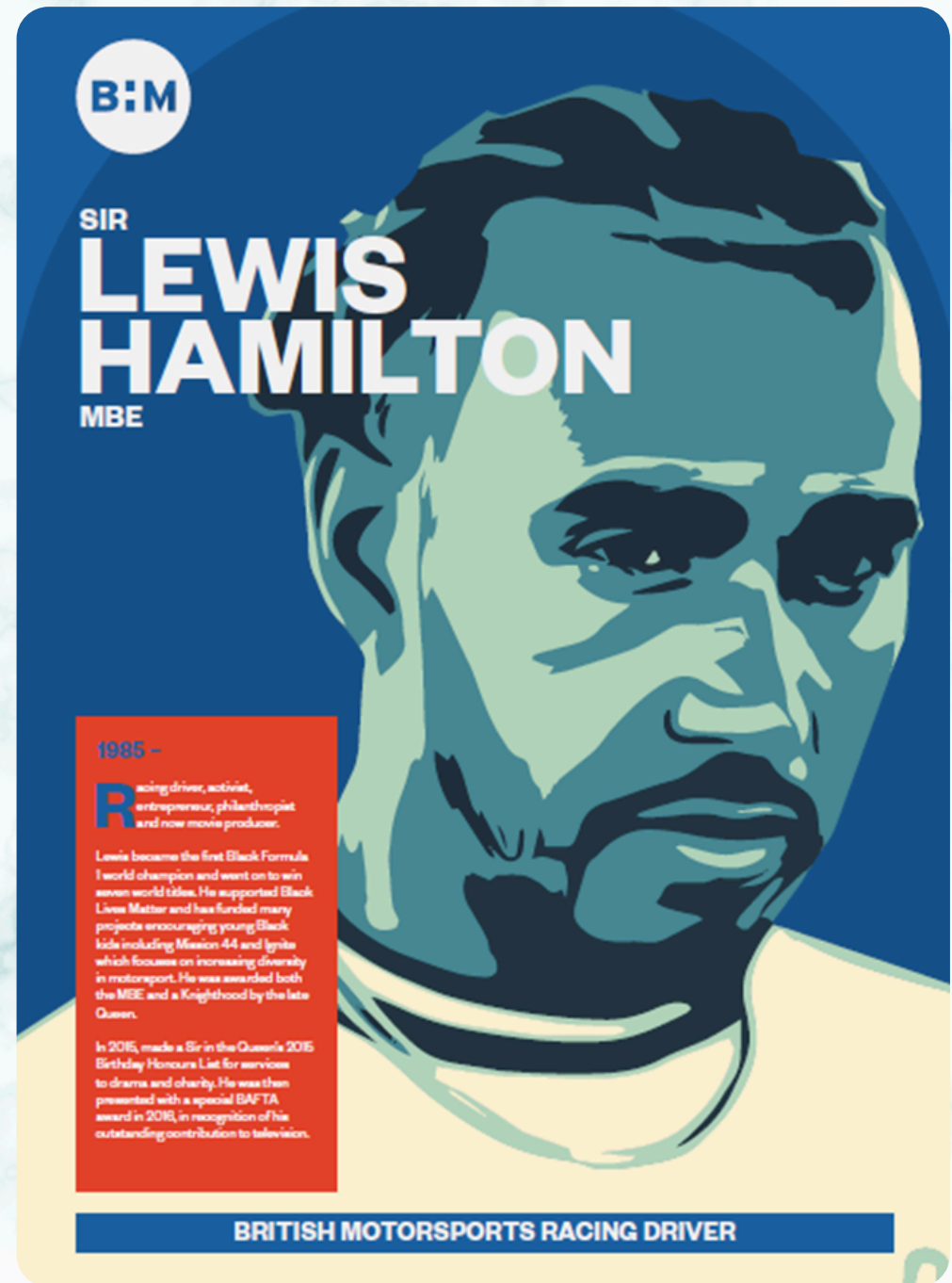


Sir Lewis Hamilton MBE

“Racing driver, activist, entrepreneur, philanthropist and now movie producer.

“Lewis became the first Black Formula 1 world champion and went on to win seven world titles. He supported Black Lives Matter and has funded many projects encouraging young Black kids including Mission 44 and Ignite which focuses on increasing diversity in motorsport. He was awarded both the MBE and a Knighthood by the late Queen.”

British Motorsports Racing Driver





Pearl Alcock
1934 - 2006

Image: Pearl Alcock © blackhistorymonth.org.uk





Image: Pearl Alcock © blackhistorymonth.org.uk

The late, self-taught 'Outsider' artist and club owner, Pearl Alcock, was born in Jamaica in 1934; she arrived in Brixton in the 1970s, opening a dress shop and a basement shebeen on Railton Road. This welcoming yet illegal space became a popular spot for Brixton's LGBTQ community. After the 1985 Brixton riots, Alcock was forced to run her cafe space which was located at 105 Railton Road, on a shoestring due to financial issues.

Pearl discovered her talent for art when she was forced into drawing a birthday card for a friend; she could not afford to buy one. By the late 1980s, she was getting recognition for her art, showing at Brixton's 198 Gallery and other London spaces. In 2019, she was the subject of a retrospective exhibition at Manchester's Whitworth Art Gallery.

Alcock died in May 2006. Leading up to her death, she was still running three establishments on Railton Road, and still creating her art.



Daniel Kaluuya

“Prominent both on screen and stage, Daniel Kaluuya has received numerous accolades including an Academy Award, two BAFTA Awards, two Screen Actors Guild Awards, a Golden Globe Award, and nominations for a Primetime Emmy Award and a Laurence Olivier Award.

“Outside of acting started his own production company called 59%, releasing Honk for Jesus. Save Your Soul (2022).”

English Actor. Writer





Image: Linton Kwesi Johnson © Wikipedia

Linton Kwesi Johnson **1952 - Present Day**





Image: Linton Kwesi Johnson © Wikipedia

Dub poet and activist Linton Kwesi Johnson, 'LKJ', was born in Jamaica in 1952 and in 1963, came to live in Brixton with his father, joining his mother who was part of the Windrush Generation, shortly before Jamaican independence in 1962. 'LKJ' went to Tulse Hill school in Lambeth and whilst there, joined the British Black Panther Movement and organised a poetry workshop.

"I began to write verse, not only because I liked it, but because it was a way of expressing the anger, the passion of the youth of my generation in terms of our struggle against racial oppression. Poetry was a cultural weapon in the black liberation struggle, so that's how it began."

In 2002, Linton Kwesi Johnson was the first (and currently, only) Black British poet to be published in the Penguin Modern Classics series. In 2020, he was awarded the PEN Pinter Prize for his commitment to political expression.



Darcus Beese OBE

“Born in 1969 he is the son of Barbara Beese and Darcus Howe.

“He grew up in Fulham, and left school early to work at first in a hairdresser before working as a tea boy promotions department at Island Records before working his way up.

“As Chief Executive Officer of Island Records, he signed several top musicians including Amy Winehouse, Jessie J, Florence & The Machine, Mumford & Sons, Dizzee Rascal, and Rizzle Kicks.”



**Chief Executive Officer of
Island Records**



**Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.
Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am**



From the poem, "I, Too", by Langston Hughes, published in 1925.

Discover black businesses and creatives at the Black Culture Market, October 5 and October 6, at Downstairs at The Department Store, 248 Ferndale Road, SW9 8FR. Details and tickets can be found at www.blackculturemarket.co.uk

05 & 06 OCT **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**
FREE - BOOK NOW 

11:00am - 05:00pm
The Department Store,
248 Ferndale Road
Brixton, SW9 8FR
(Near Brixton Post Office)

BLACK CULTURE MARKET

Food • Fashion • Music • Stationery • Art • Books • Jewellery
Homeware • Skincare • Toys • Health • Beauty & more.
Come down to support & discover new black businesses.
Different traders each day

 **BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET TODAY**
BLACKCULTUREMARKET.CO.UK





Lambeth is hosting “A celebration of history, arts, literature and film” featuring a number of events happening around the borough.

Highlights include Brixton Poets Celebrate Benjamin Zephaniah at Brixton Tate Library, October 3, 6.00pm

Stone Carving Workshop and Artist Talk with Marcia Bennett-Male, Brixton Tate Library, October 22, 1.00pm.

Visit www.lambeth.gov.uk/black-history-month for details.

SW9 is marking Black History Month with an exhibition displayed in the Housing Office Reception and a video.

Titled Reclaiming Narratives, both the exhibition and video feature a number of Black British figures from the worlds of literature, film, sport, music and history, whose narratives are being celebrated.

You can scan the QR code to access the Reclaiming Narratives video. The exhibition runs throughout October.





B:M
2024

**RECLAIMING
NARRATIVES**

