

Black History Month 2025

“Standing Firm In Power and Pride”



This year's theme, "Standing Firm In Power and Pride", looks at the resilience, strength and commitment to progress. It also highlights the contributions made by cultural and political leaders, activists and pioneers throughout history.



**"Join us in honouring Black history, recognising the visionaries, and working together to build a brighter future...to continue the work of shaping an inclusive world."
Cherron Inko-Tariah MBE**



PRIDE IN OUR ROOTS



MARY SEACOLE
Fearless nurse and entrepreneur whose skill and compassion during the Crimean War won the gratitude of soldiers and the admiration of a nation.



JOHN EDMONSTONE
Formerly enslaved in Guyana, he became a respected taxidermist in Edinburgh and taught Charles Darwin, influencing the science that reshaped how we understand life.



DIDO ELIZABETH BELLE
Raised in one of Britain's grandest households, she navigated privilege and prejudice with dignity, her life quietly challenging the racial attitudes of her age.



FANNY EATON
Jamaican-born muse of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, whose image redefined Victorian ideals of beauty and remains immortalised in art.



SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR
Celebrated composer whose music blended African, Caribbean, and European traditions, earning him worldwide acclaim and the nickname "the African Mahler."



GEORGE BRIDGETOWER
Virtuoso violinist who performed with Beethoven and dazzled audiences across Europe, his talent defying the limitations others sought to place upon him.

Black presence in Britain spans centuries. Some were born here, others arrived through empire, building lives in towns and cities. They created culture, shaped society, and challenged prejudice. The six lives honoured here are part of that deeper legacy – a reminder that Black history has always been at the heart of Britain's story.

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SW9 Community Housing

STANDING FIRM IN PARLIAMENT



BARON PAUL BOATENG
One of Britain's first Black MPs and later the nation's first Black Cabinet Minister. His career has been defined by championing social justice, empowering young people, and strengthening communities.



BARONESS DOREEN LAWRENCE OF CLARENDON
Turned tragedy into a national mission after the racist murder of her son Stephen. Elevated to the Lords in 2013, she became a powerful symbol of courage, justice, and reform in Britain's institutions.



DIANE ABBOTT MP
The first Black woman ever elected to the House of Commons in 1987. For more than three decades she has been an unwavering advocate for education, health equity, and the rights of marginalised communities.



LORD HERMAN OUSELEY
A fireless champion of equality, he led the Commission for Racial Equality and founded Kick It Out to challenge racism in sport. From 1997 until his passing in 2024, he used his voice in the Lords to advance fairness in public life and education.



DAVID PITT, BARON PITT OF HAMPSTEAD
A pioneering physician and civil rights campaigner who became one of the first Black peers in the House of Lords in 1975. He used his voice to challenge racism in housing, healthcare, and education, and spent his life working for justice and equality in Britain.



BARONESS VALERIE AMOS
A trailblazer, the first Black woman to serve in a UK Cabinet and the first to lead the House of Lords. She went on to global leadership with the UN and Commonwealth, reshaping how Britain — and the world — sees leadership.

Across generations, Black parliamentarians have broken barriers in Westminster, reshaped British democracy, and stood firm for justice and equality. Their voices have carried into the heart of Britain's political life — some still serving with resolve today, while others are honoured for the legacies they left behind.

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TRUTH TO POWER

Across continents and generations, these global figures stood up to injustice, gave voice to the oppressed, and demanded a better world. Through words, music, activism, and faith, they ignited movements, challenged empires, and inspired millions. The six lives honoured here are part of a wider global legacy – of resistance, brilliance, and unwavering belief in the dignity of all people.



AMY ASHWOOD GARVEY

A trailblazer of Black feminism and Pan-Africanism. She organised, mobilised, and uplifted generations – building global networks long before the world truly took notice.



DESMOND TUTU

A global moral compass. Through compassion and conviction, he helped dismantle apartheid and taught the world the power of truth, justice, and reconciliation.



MALCOLM X

Fearless and uncompromising, he demanded dignity, pride, and liberation. His words awakened minds and stirred movements that still resonate today.



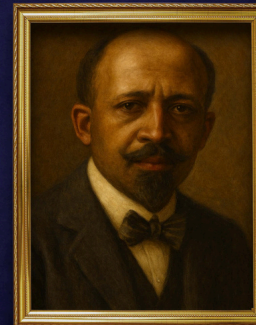
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

A dreamer with unmatched resolve. His voice echoed from the pulpit to the streets, inspiring a non-violent revolution rooted in justice and love.



NINA SIMONE

The High Priestess of Soul. Her music was defiance, her voice a weapon. She sang what others dared not say, and made beauty out of resistance.



W.E.B. DU BOIS

A towering intellect and warrior for equality, he championed education, self-determination, and Pan-African unity before the world was ready to listen.

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POWER IN PROTEST



ALTHERIA JONES-LECOITE
Scientist and leader in the British Black Panthers whose organising and intellect built community programmes, defended Black Britons, and inspired a generation with the language of resistance.



CLAUDIA JONES
Journalist, organiser, and visionary who founded the *West Indian Gazette* and launched Britain's first Caribbean Carnival, blending culture with protest to empower communities.



MAVIS BEST
Grassroots leader who spearheaded the Scrap the Sus campaign, uniting communities to end racist stop-and-search laws and proving ordinary people could force national change.



PAUL STEPHENSON
Civil rights pioneer who led the 1963 Bristol Bus Boycott, breaking the city's colour bar and helping to lay the foundations of race relations law.



OLIVE MORRIS
Radical activist and member of the British Black Panthers who fought for housing rights, women's liberation, and racial equality, leaving a fearless legacy that continues to inspire today.



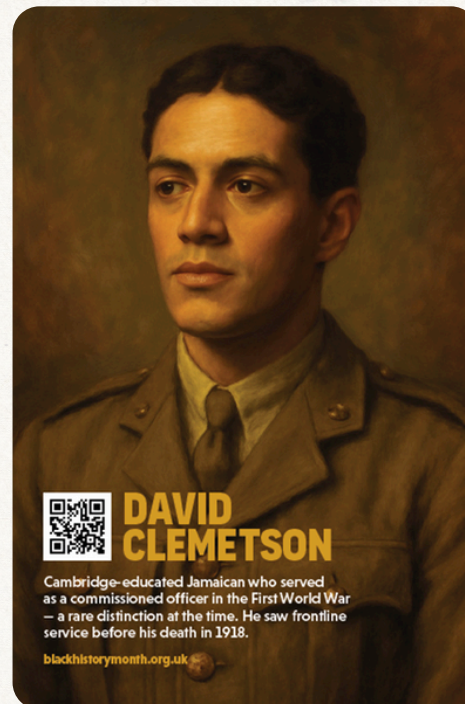
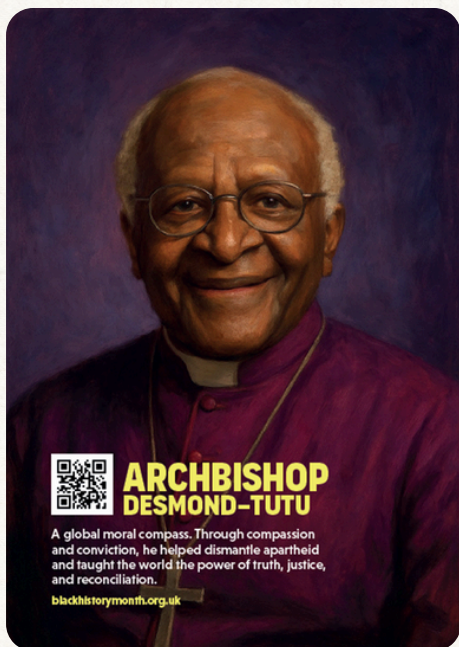
ROY HACKETT
Architect of the Bristol Bus Boycott whose quiet strength and direct action changed transport policy and set in motion a wider movement for equality.

For generations, Black activists have spoken out across Britain — in the streets, in community halls, and in the courts — challenging injustice with courage and resolve. The six figures remembered here reflect a far greater story: one of protest and perseverance that reshaped laws, mobilised communities, and inspired new movements for justice and equality.

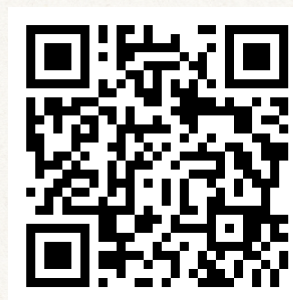
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**Read more about these and
several more celebrated Black
figures by visiting the Black History
Month website via the QR code**



Celebrate Black History Month during October

Brixton's Black Culture Market – Saturday 4 October and Sunday 5 October, Department Store, 248 Ferndale Road, SW9 8FR



Europe's Largest Black British Book Festival - Sunday 19 October, Barbican Centre, London



Celebrate Black History Month during October

**Icons of Railton Road
Walking Tour - Sunday
26 October, from
outside Arts &
Contemporary
Learning, corner of
Hurst Street**



**Jumaane Smith: The
Next Big Thing From
New York - Thursday 16
October, Purcell Room,
Southbank Centre, SE1**



