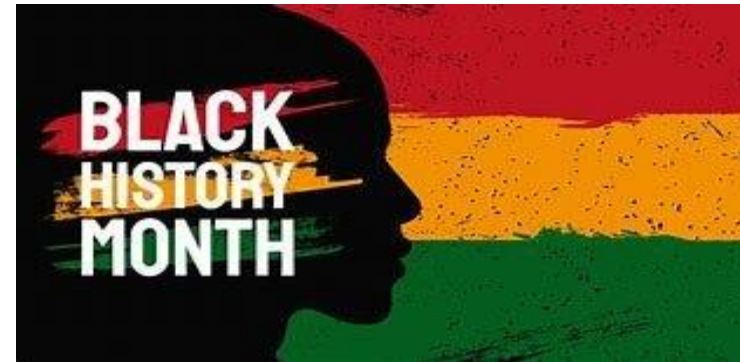


BLACK HISTORY MONTH

“Won’t it be wonderful when black history and native American history and Jewish history is taught from one book. Just US history”.

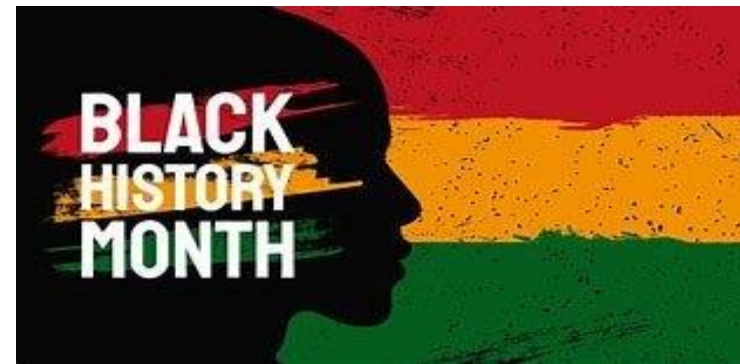
Maya Angelou



Prepared by Liam Cameron – Assistant
Manager at Belle Vue Leisure Centre

Black history is world history

October marks the beginning of Black History Month in the UK. This national celebration aims to promote and celebrate the contributions of Caribbean & African people to British society and to gain a deeper understanding of Black history in general.



Ancient Nubia

- **Did you know one of the oldest human civilizations was in Africa?**

Nubia is a region along the Nile river located in what is today northern Sudan and southern Egypt (North East Africa). The first kings may well have ruled about 5900 BC, they influenced the new kingdom of Egypt.

Nubia is believed to have served as a trade corridor between Egypt and tropical Africa long before 3100 BCE. Egyptian craftsmen of the period used ivory and ebony wood from tropical Africa which came through Nubia.

- Nubia was home to several empires, most prominently the Kingdom of Kush, which conquered Egypt in eighth-century BC. Megaliths discovered in Nubia are early examples of what seems to be one of the world's first astronomical devices which predates Stonehenge by nearly 2,000 years.



Cheddar Man

Did you know?

Cheddar Man is Britain's oldest complete human skeleton. He was found at Gough's Cave in Cheddar Gorge, Somerset. He was evacuated in 1903.

The skeletal remains date back to the middle stone age (Mesolithic) and are believed to be over 9,000 years old. Dating back to 7100 BC.

After many years of research into DNA extracted from the skeleton. It has aided scientists to build a portrait of Cheddar Man and his life in Mesolithic Britain.

Cheddar man was found to have had dark skin. He had the genetic markers of skin pigmentation usually associated with sub-Saharan Africa.

This discovery is consistent with a number of other human remains discovered throughout Europe during this time period.

He was given the name Cheddar Man based on where his fossils were found, which is kind of ironic as scientists believe he may of been lactose intolerant.



Ivory Bangle Lady

- Did you know?

The remains of a Roman woman known as the Ivory Bangle Lady have helped archaeologists discover that wealthy people from across the Empire were living in fourth century York.

- The Ivory Bangle Lady is a skeleton found in Sycamore Terrace, York in 1901. She was a high-status adult female, believed to be of North African descent, who died in York in the 4th century AD. Her skeleton was found with bracelets, pendants, earrings, beads, a glass jug and mirror. A piece of bone inscribed with the words, "Hail, sister may you live in God" was found with her skeleton.



The Mali Empire

The Mali Empire - from 1230 AD - 1464. Was one of the greatest African Empires. It was founded by Sundiata Keita and became renowned for the wealth of its rulers. Mali was rich in natural resources such as gold, precious stones and salt.

The empire spanned across modern-day west African countries of Mali, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Western Niger and Northern Ghana.

It became a larger kingdom than any in Europe at the time. His cities became important trading centres for all of West Africa and the city of Timbuktu became one of the major cultural centres in the entire world. Vast libraries and Islamic universities were built, and it became a meeting place of the finest poets, scholars, and artists of Africa and the Middle East.



Mansa Musa Richest Man in History?

- Mansa Musa was the tenth Mansa (king) of the Mali Empire. He has been described as the wealthiest individual of the Middle Ages. He ruled Mali from 1312 to 1337.
- He built many schools, universities and libraries, in cities like Gao and Timbuktu. Education was free and encouraged in his kingdom. It is estimated that Mali came to control half of the world's supply of salt and gold at this time.
- Historians estimate that Mansa Musa, in modern currency, was worth around £400-600bn. That is more than twice as wealthy as Elon Musk— the richest person alive today. Most of Mansa Musa's wealth came from gold and salt.



World War One

- After Britain joined the First World War on 4th August 1914 black recruits could be found in all branches of the armed forces. From 1914 black brits volunteered at recruitment centres and they were joined by West Indian colonials who had travelled from various countries in the Caribbean at their own expense to take part in helping Britain fight against the Germans. Their support was needed.
- African soldiers were forced to fight for their colonial masters, France recruited the most sending. Approximately 450,000 troops from North and West Africa and fought against the Germans on the front lines.



World War One & Two

More than four million men and women from the Britain's colonies volunteered for service during the first and second world wars.



Interesting War Figures – Walter Tull 1888 - 1918

Was an English professional footballer and British army officer. He was the third person of mixed heritage to play in the top division of the football league.

In the First World War, Tull joined the British Army and was promoted to the rank of sergeant. His senior officers then recommended enrolment in officer training school, despite military regulations at the time forbidding black or any people of colour becoming an officer.

He received his commission in May 1917, It was reported he was known for his bravery and composure when under fire. 2nd lieutenant Tull died in action his body was never found.



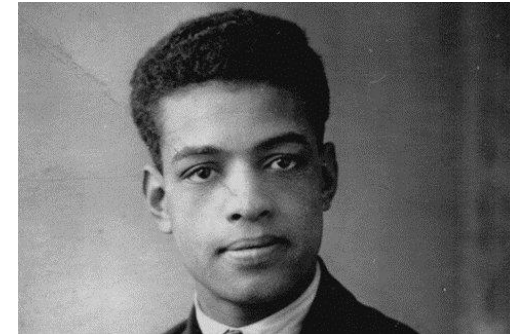
Colour Bar UK

- What was the colour bar?
- The colour bar was a policy introduced by Winston Churchill, as a result of more immigrants entering Britain post-war. Black and Asian people were stopped from entering pubs, bars, restaurants and landlords refused to rent to immigrants due to this policy.



Len Johnson 1902 - 1974

- A local boxing star of mixed heritage from Clayton, Manchester, he was regarded as the best middleweight of his era.
- He was a legend in the boxing world, he dominated the middleweight division. Between 1927-1928 he was considered one of the best boxers in the world in his division. At the time boxing regulations stated that title contenders had to have white parents. As a result, Johnson was prevented from a title shot because of this 'colour bar'. Later in life he played a major role in the African independence movements of the 1940s.



Black Inventors

The work of black inventors has often been ignored or simply forgotten. However, the world we live in today would be very different without the innovations and contributions that black inventors have given us.



WITHOUT
BLACK INVENTORS
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE THESE

| PRODUCT | INVENTOR | DATE |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------|
| ELEVATOR | -ALEXANDER MILES | -1867 |
| FIRE EXTINGUISHER | THOMAS MARSHALL | -1872 |
| STETHOSCOPE | THOMAS A. CARRINGTON | -1876 |
| LIGHT BULB | -LEWIS LATIMER | -1882 |
| IRONING BOARD | -SARAH BOONE | -1887 |
| MAIL BOX | -PAUL L. DOWNING | -1891 |
| PENCIL SHARPENER | -JOHN L. LOVE | -1897 |
| TRAFFIC LIGHTS | -GARRETT MOPGAN | -1923 |
| BLOOD PLASMA BAG | -CHARLES DREW | -1945 |
| AIR CONDITIONING UNIT | -FREDERICK M. JONES | -1949 |

Black Inventors – Marie Van Brittan Brown 1922 - 1999

- Marie Brown was the inventor of the first home security system, inspired by the prolonged length of time it took the police to arrive in her neighbourhood. Brown lived in Queens, New York, due to her husband working late she was often home alone late at night, the crime rate in Queens, New York was very high at the time.
- Brown looked for ways to increase her level of personal security. She needed to create a system that would allow her to know who was at her home and contact relevant authorities as quickly as possible.
- Brown's security system was the basis for the two-way communication and surveillance features of modern security. Her original invention was comprised of peepholes, a camera, monitors, and a two-way microphone. The final element was an alarm button that could be pressed to contact the police immediately.



Black Inventors - Lewis

Howard Latimer 1848 - 1928

- Lewis Latimer an inventor, engineer and writer. Latimer was a key figure in the development of some of the most revolutionary inventions of the 19th century.
- His work his often overlooked his contributions changed the way people lived today.
- His inventions included an evaporative air conditioner, an improved process for manufacturing carbon filaments for light bulbs, and an improved toilet system for railroad cars.
- At the age of 70, Latimer became a member of Edison pioneers a highly prestigious and selective group composed of employees of Thomas Edison. He is the first and only African American to join the organisation.



Black Inventors – Garret Morgan 1877 - 1963

Before African American Garret Morgan, traffic lights only signaled for 'Stop & 'Go'. He developed the three-position system we still use today. He also created an early version of the gas mask.



Windrush Scandal

- British political scandal concerning people who were wrongly detained, denied legal rights, threatened with deportation, and many wrongly deported from the UK by the Home Office.
- Many people affected had been born British subjects and had arrived in the UK before 1973. An unknown number were detained, lost their jobs or homes, or were denied benefits or medical care to which they were entitled. A number of long term UK residents were refused re-entry to the UK, and a larger number were threatened with immediate deportation by the Home Office.
- The scandal prompted a wider debate about British immigration policy and Home Office practice. A review concluded that immigration regulations were tightened "with complete disregard for the Windrush generation", and that officials had made "irrational" demands for multiple documents to establish residency rights.



Manchester

- Did you know Manchester was the home of the cotton industry in Britain?
- Cottonopolis was a 19th century nickname for Manchester. The world's first steam driven textile mill was opened in Manchester (1781). Manchester became the largest and most productive cotton spinning centre in the world. Oldham became the most productive cotton spinning town in the world.
- Manchester became an important transport hub, the Bridgewater Canal made it possible to transport goods in bulk.
- Cotton imported through the port of Liverpool from the West Indies and southern states of America. Coal from Worsley was also carried on the canal.
- The Liverpool & Manchester railway was built it was the first inter-city railway in the world.



Manchester - Cottonopolis

- In 1859, African American, lecturer and abolitionist Sarah Parker Remond came to Lancashire to appeal to mill owners and cotton workers to support the US anti-slavery movement.
- She said: “When I walk through the streets of Manchester and meet load after load of cotton, I think of those 80,000 cotton plantations on which was grown the \$125M worth of cotton which supply your market, and I remember that not one cent of that money ever reached the hands of the labourers.”



Liverpool

- Liverpool Has the oldest black community in Europe – dating back ten generations. There has been a huge effort in recent years by organisations and local historians in Liverpool to uncover the city's black history. They seek to record previously unwritten stories of Liverpool's Black community over the centuries.
- One of the first recorded race riots took place in Liverpool 1919. Liverpool has a long established black community, as black merchant seaman and demobilised soldiers had settled in Liverpool during and after the war. The main trigger for the riots was the perception that black and minority ethnic communities were stealing jobs.



Bristol

- Did you know there was a bus boycott in Bristol 1963? Almost ten years after the bus boycott in the USA
- The Bristol Bus boycott started in 1963. It came about as the main local bus Companies continued refusal to employ black and Asian people. The whole Bristol community got together and decided to boycott the companies buses. The boycott lasted for four months until the company backed down and overturned their discriminative colour bar policy.
- Few years later in 1965 the UK parliament passed a Race Relations Act. Which made racial discrimination unlawful in public places. It is believed the national attention of the boycott played a major role for these changes.
- Raghbir Singh become Bristol's first non white bus conductor a few days later two Jamaican and two Pakistani men joined him.



Bristol

- Did you know there was a bus boycott in Bristol 1963? Almost ten years after the bus boycott in the USA
- The Bristol Bus boycott started in 1963. It came about as the main local bus Companies continued refusal to employ black and Asian people. The whole Bristol community got together and decided to boycott the companies buses. The boycott lasted for four months until the company backed down and overturned their discriminative colour bar policy.
- Few years later in 1965 the UK parliament passed a Race Relations Act. Which made racial discrimination unlawful in public places. It is believed the national attention of the boycott played a major role for these changes.
- Raghbir Singh become Bristol's first non white bus conductor a few days later two Jamaican and two Pakistani men joined him.



Haiti

France began to colonize North America in the 16th century, taking control of modern day Canada, parts of the USA and a number of the Caribbean islands. Saint-Domingue (Now Haiti) was established in 1659 on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. The slave plantations provided sugar and coffee to France, By 1789 Saint-Domingue became the most valuable European colony in the world.



Haitian Revolution

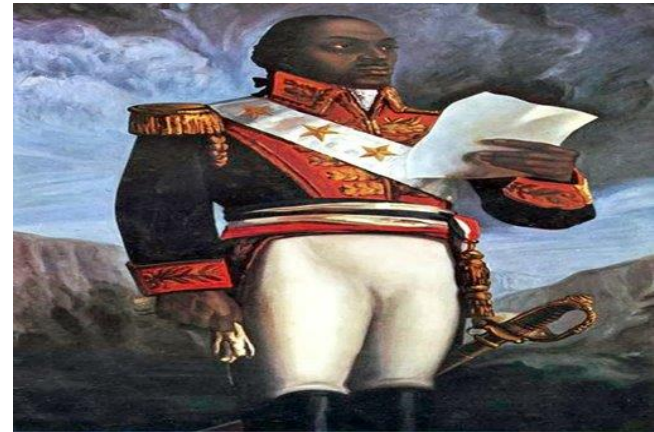
- This was a successful rebellion by self-liberated slaves against French colonial rule in Saint-Domingue, inspired by the brutality of the slaveowners. The rebellion began 22nd August 1791 and ended in 1804 with the former colony's independence. Former slave Toussaint L'Ouverture emerged as a hero leading during the battle.
- The revolution was the only successful slave rebellion. The revolution was the largest slave uprising since Spartacus' unsuccessful revolt against



Toussaint Ouverture

Born into enslavement in the French colony of Saint-Domingue (Now Haiti). Toussaint led a successful slave rebellion against colonial rule. Toussaint's master noticed his superior intelligence and decided to mentor him. Before joining in the rebellion, Toussaint ensured the safety of his family and his masters family too.

His actions paved the way for Haiti to become an independent Black-governed state and inspired other countries to resist colonial rule.years earlier.



British Black Panthers UK

1968 - 1973

- Did you know there was a Black Panther movement here in the UK?
- The British Black Panther movement was an organisation that fought for the rights of black and people of colour in this country. The movement was inspired by the US Black Panther Party but they were not affiliated.
- The most successful part of the movement was during the Mangrove Nine trial. The trial involving members of the Panther Movement and other black activists, succeeded in fighting against ongoing police harassment at a local Caribbean restaurant.
- The trial drew attention to the fight against racism in the UK police force. The trial became the first judicial acknowledgment of behaviour motivated by racial hatred within the Metropolitan police.

Capoeira

- A Brazilian mixed martial art which involves dance, acrobatics and music.
- It was practised by enslaved Africans in Brazil, At the beginning of the 16th century. Known for its acrobatic striking involving hands on the ground and inverted kicks. It focuses on flowing movements rather than fixed stance.
- Music and dancing were included to disguise the fact that they were practising fighting. Plantation owners would forbid the enslaved people practicing fighting techniques. Due to fears of a revolt from the enslaved Africans, which were taking place throughout the Americas.
- After the abolishment of slavery in Brazil, capoeira was declared illegal by the government at the end of the 19th century.
- In the 1920s authorities started to relax their views on capoeira and martial artist began to incorporate the techniques into their practices.



Matthew Henson 1866 - 1955

- Matthew Henson was an explorer. He is best known for the 1908-1908 expedition and the first to have reached the geographic North Pole. Henson spoke Inuit fluently, the language of the Arctic natives.
- As the first African-American Arctic explorer, Henson's unique ability to interact with the Inuit people shown the respect and appreciation he held for them. This skill was crucial for the success on his expeditions.



Recommended Books

- From Superman to man – J A Rogers (highly recommended)
- Natives: Race & Class in the Ruins of Empire – Akala (highly recommended)
- Staying Power: The history of black people in Britain – Peter Fryer
- The World's War – David Olusoga
- The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture – C.L.R. James
- Black and British: A Forgotten History – David Olusoga
- Brit (ish) – Afua Hirsch (Highly Recommended)
- Windrush Child – Benjamin Zephaniah