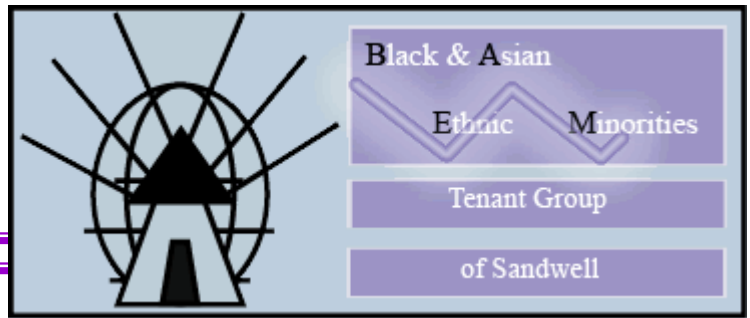


# SPECIAL EDITION

OCTOBER 2009



## Celebrating Black History Month 2009!

October 2009 sees the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Black History Month here in the UK. Our local region the West Midlands, and in particular Sandwell has long been noted for its multicultural communities.

It seemed only fitting then that our latest newsletter should be dedicated to the incredible range of celebratory events currently underway under the banner of Black History Month here in the region. We hope that many of you will take part and go along to support and enjoy these activities and events.

It is a credit to the huge effort and commitment made by

people across the region that we couldn't possibly hope to provide information on all of the one off events and exhibitions currently taking place. With this in mind we have uploaded links to more information on the BEAM website.

Here you will find additional information on the events mentioned here, news on other events as well as links to general features on the significance of Black History Month across the world. You can find out more by visiting the website at:

<http://www.beamgroup.org.uk/news.htm>



*Inside this newsletter you will find plenty of amazing events to easily fill up your social calendar for the coming month!*

So, let us all make that special effort to get out there and have some fun – and in so doing make our own small contribution towards making the 2009 events the most successful yet!



### About Black History Month -

- Began in the USA in 1926.
- Celebrated in October in the UK, but February in USA & Canada.
- By 2007 had grown to over 6,000 events in the UK alone.
- Find out more at the Black History Month website - [www.black-history-month.co.uk](http://www.black-history-month.co.uk)

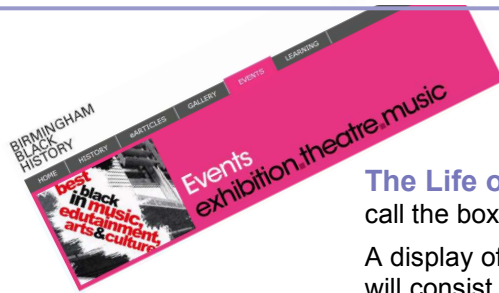
### So... Who Are BEAM?

*BEAM is the Black Asian and Ethnic Minority Tenants Consultation Group of Sandwell. The project was set up in 1996 because of the lack of representation in the traditional forums such as Tenants & Residents Associations.*

*Sandwell Community Information and Participation Service Ltd (SCIPS) and Sandwell Housing*

*Department both realised that there was a clear lack of involvement from BME tenants.*

*This newsletter is part of BEAM's continuing strategy to encourage the whole community to come together and celebrate the wonderful diversity of our local cultural life and to promote some of the events taking place around our region over the coming weeks.*



## Events In The West Midlands

**The Life of Barack Obama** – 1 October 2009 to 31 October 2009 (for times please call the box office).

A display of images, information and books of the "Life of Barack Obama". The display will consist of information on: Family Life, Politics, Presidential campaign, Inauguration and work in the community.

Ticket Price Admission free Box Office 0121 464 7422

Venue: Spring Hill Library, Spring Hill, Birmingham, B18 7BH

**George Cousins, Dudley's first Jamaican Baptist Minister** - 1 October to Saturday 31 October (for times please call the venue).

Free admission to a display of material about the life of George Cousins.

Venue: Dudley archives and local history service, Mount Pleasant Street, Coseley, WV14 9JR

Contact: Diane Matthews on 01384 812771 or e-mail: [diane.matthews@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:diane.matthews@dudley.gov.uk).

**Music Workshops** – 1 October 2009 to 31 October 2009 (for times please call the box office).

CMAT is a state of the art music centre and recording studios in Handsworth. Home of Black Voices, the centre is offering opportunities in music to suit all ages and abilities. Programmes for 'Silver Surfers' and under 5s. Please contact for class dates and times.

Ticket Price £6 per session Box Office 0121 331 4746

Venue: CMAT, 16 Grosvenor Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B20 3N

**Quiz and Cuisine** - 15 October 2009, 7-10 pm.- £2.50 Adults, £1.50 children.

Hosted by Black Sisters at the new Wisemore Campus, a showcase of talent from Walsall's African and Caribbean community, featuring a black history quiz and locally produced African and Caribbean food.

Venue: Wisemore Campus, Walsall College, Littleton Street West, Walsall, WS2 8ES.

For further information contact Black Sisters on 01922 616996.

**New Refugee Communities** – 16 October 2009, 10.00 am. to 5.00 pm.

This exhibition explores Birmingham's history as a city welcoming communities fleeing difficult circumstances, and exploring the experiences of some of Birmingham's new refugee communities.

Ticket Price Admission free Box Office 0121 464 1619

Venue: Central Library, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ

**Standing on the Shoulders of Giants** – 16 October 2009, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

A photographic exhibition of Black heroes who have made a contribution to the development of the Black community.

Ticket Price Admission free Box Office 0121 464 4473

Venue: Bartley Green Library, Adams Hill, Birmingham, B32 3QG

**Black on Gold** – 16 October 2009, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

A display of Black sporting heroes.

Ticket Price Admission free Box Office 0121 464 7400

Venue: Quinton Library, Ridgacre Road, Birmingham, B32 2TW



*"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word".*

~Martin Luther King, Jr.



---

**Steel band performance, workshop and story telling** – 17 October 2009. For times please contact the venue.

Fun filled activities with African Caribbean refreshments available.

Venue: Halesowen Library, Hagley Mall. Cornbow Centre, Halesowen, B63 4AJ

Contact: Chris Attwood on 01384 815555 or e-mail: [chris.attwood@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:chris.attwood@dudley.gov.uk)

**Birmingham Book Festival British Asian Writing** – 17 October 2009, 10.30 to 12.00

From the iconic novelists Salman Rushdie and Hanif Kureishi, to the exciting new voices of the 21st century, such as Monica Ali and Nadeem Aslam, Dr Rehana Ahmed of the Open University leads this brief introduction.

Ticket Price £10, £7 concessions Box Office 0121 303 2323

Venue: South Birmingham College, High Street Deritend, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 5SU

**The Colour Purple** - Film screening - 19 October, 2 pm. - FREE.

1985 film showing the problems faced by African-American women during the early 1900's; including poverty, racism, and sexual discrimination.

Venue: Forest Arts Centre, Hawbush Road, Leamore, Walsall, WS3 1AG.

For more information contact 01922 654555.

**“Why are West Indians in this Country”** - 21 October 2009, 11 am – 12 pm & 22nd October 2009, 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm and 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm.

A talk by H. Barnes based on his book

Venue: Spring Hill Library. Spring Hill, Birmingham, B18 7BH. Contact: 0121 464 7422

**Birmingham NUT Black Teachers Group presents ‘Blacks Britannica’ – A film you’re NOT supposed to see** – 22 October 2009, 7.00 pm to midnight.

This event will explore racism in Britain today and discuss whether things have changed since the documentary was made. This event is open to everyone and is a fundraiser for UAF.

Admission £3/£2 concessions Box Office 0121 442 2031

Venue: Sheesha Lounge, 73-75 Pershore Street, Birmingham B5 4RW.

**Fred D’Aguiar** - 22 October 2009, 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm.

Public poetry reading and talk with the celebrated poet, novelist & playwright

Venue: Weoley Castle Library. 76 Beckbury Road, Birmingham, B29 5HR. Contact: 0121 464 1664

**Open Mic - Performance Evening** - 24 October, 4-8pm. Tickets only.

To celebrate black history and 50 years of Motown the NOW team are holding an open Mic evening.

The main prize is a recording session at the map. So if you are 8-12 years or 13 –19 years, and you have the now factor please contact Joanne on 07545 422251.

Venue: St Matthews Centre, St Matthew’s Close, Walsall, WS1 3DG

**African Caribbean Family History** – 24 October 2009, 10.00 to 12.00

Bookable individual sessions with genealogist Paul Wilkins to assist those wishing to trace their African Caribbean ancestors.

Ticket Price Admission free, but phone to book your session. Box Office 0121 464 1185

Venue: Handsworth Library, Soho Road, Birmingham B21 9DP

**Under One Flag: How Indigenous and ethnic people of the Commonwealth helped Britain win WW2** – 24 October 2009, 10.30 to 11.30.

Erica Myers-Davis will be talking about her book which focuses on five regions of the former British Empire and Commonwealth. The book is being launched in October and is aimed at teenagers and young adults.

Ticket Price Admission free Box Office 0121 464 3466

Venue: Bloomsbury Library, Nechells Parkway, Birmingham, B7 4PT

**Live Box featuring Robert Mitchell & Corey Mwamba** – 25 October 2009. 7.45 pm to 11.30 pm.

Pianist Robert Mitchell joins forces with Corey Mwamba for tonight's Live Box.

Ticket Price £5, £3 concession Box Office 0121 333 2444

Venue: The Drum, 144 Potters Lane, Aston, Birmingham, B6 4UU



**Birmingham's Diverse Communities** – 26 October 2009, 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm.

This workshop is an introduction to the history of the diversity of Birmingham through the city's archive collections. Due to limited places, members of the public are required to book in advance.

Ticket Price Free, but must be booked in advance. Box Office 0121 464 1607

Venue: Central Library, 6th floor, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3HQ

**An Audience with Esha Johnson** – 29 October 2009, 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Author of "My Lover, My King and I"

Venue: Aston Library, Albert Road, Birmingham, B6 5NQ. Contact: 0121 464 1184

**The Inheritance Project** – 31 October 2009, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

An exhibition of photographs taken by artist Vanley Burke during the Inheritance Project. The Inheritance Project was established in order to explore the heritage, history and experience of people and families of mixed heritage.

Ticket Price Admission free Box Office 0121 464 1619

Venue: Central Library, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ

**Bloomsbury Cyber Junction** – 31 October 2009, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.

Trace your Caribbean roots – to celebrate Black history month Bloomsbury Cyber Junction are having a workshop on family history. You can find out about how to trace your Caribbean heritage and family roots. Come along and find out more.

Ticket Price Admission free Box Office 0121 2505 533

Venue: Bloomsbury Cyber Junction, Oliver Street, Nechells, Birmingham B7 4NY

**Voice of Black Opera – Gala Final 2009** – 31 October 2009, 7.30 pm to 2.00 am

Make Black History! This Black British Classical Foundation presents the inaugural Voice of Black Opera – Gala Final 2009. Seven professional singers drawn from entries across the Commonwealth compete for the glittering title and prize package of professional development opportunities. The Royal Ballet Sinfonia, conductor James Lowe. Ticket Prices £25, £20 & £15 concessions

£80 VIP Tickets (includes drinks & dinner) Box Office 0121 303 2323 VIP Ticket Line 020 3177 3906

Venue: The Great Hall, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT

**West African Leather Exhibition with Robin Walker** - 31 October, 3-5pm. FREE.

Lecture by renowned historian and author. The lecture will highlight the hidden history of African skills and crafts relating to the items in the exhibition. You will have the chance to visit the West African Leather Exhibition on show at the museum; the museum will close directly after the lecture.

Venue: Walsall Leather Museum, Littleton Street West, Walsall, WS2 8EQ.

For further information contact Deb Slade on 01922 653114.

**If you would like to find out more about the BEAM group visit the website at [www.beamgroup.org.uk](http://www.beamgroup.org.uk). If you are a resident of Sandwell and would like to join the group or be added to the mailing list please give us a call on 0121 544 1230.**