

## **Latest News**

### **September 2010**

#### **Celebrating 5 years of Black History in Solihull**

Solihull celebrates its 5th anniversary of Black History Month this October, and to mark the occasion the Solihull Partnership will be hosting a programme of events for all residents to enjoy.

The month-long event is celebrated each year across the borough to highlight the history, cultural heritage and achievements of African, African Caribbean and Asian communities.



The Council, Solihull College and other partners across the borough have organised a host of fun-packed activities to get people of all ages involved.

Black History Month kicks off with a launch event on 1 October at Chelmsley Wood Town Centre. Events and activities include a Caribbean Family History Exhibition where people can learn about their family tree. Horticultural displays of exotic plants from Shirley's Akamba Garden Centre and Solihull Council's park rangers will also be on show.

Furthermore, Solihull Libraries will be launching its Community Read initiative, encouraging people to read award-winning novels which explore the immigrant experience through literature. Residents are simply asked to read a free book, submit a review and be in with a chance of winning a prize.

For theatre-goers The Solihull Arts Complex will be showcasing its latest offering on Tuesday 12 October – Not Quite Gospel – an uplifting musical drama about love, faith and responsibility in a poor inner city neighbourhood. The performance has

been produced by Nu Century Arts, specialists in African Caribbean theatre productions across the Midlands.

Solihull College will also be hosting events on Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 October, including African carnival mask making, African drumming, Black heroes exhibition, Floor Arts and live music. Asian influences include Mehndi henna hand painting workshops and a Khabaddi Tournament.

Solihull's Children's Centres are celebrating diversity throughout October with a series of creative activities and workshops for children, including African mask and flag making.

Council leader and Chair of Solihull Partnership, Cllr Ian Hedley, says: "We are pleased to be celebrating five years of Black History Month in Solihull next month. These events recognise some of the major cultural festivals that are important to the communities that live, work and study in Solihull. I hope that local people will welcome the spirit of Black History Month and perhaps try something they have never done before."

Places on these events are limited so booking is essential. To find out how to book and for a full list of events visit [www.solihull.gov.uk](http://www.solihull.gov.uk). Alternatively you can pick up the **events brochure** (available overleaf) at any Solihull library, Tudor Grange and Norman Green sports centres or Solihull Connect Centres.

***For media enquiries please contact Rav Jagdev, Partnership Marketing and Communications Officer, on 0121 704 8117 or [rjagdev@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:rjagdev@solihull.gov.uk)***

# Black history month

October 2010



Solihull

Black history month

The Solihull Partnership



## Black History Month - Celebrating 5 years in Solihull

### Welcome

Solihull Partnership is celebrating its fifth anniversary of Black History Month in Solihull this October, and has once again been working in partnership with local organisations to develop a programme of events for you to enjoy.

Solihull as a community is changing. It is becoming more diverse and the Partnership aims to create a sense of belonging for all communities. A more diverse Solihull can bring with it vibrancy, an enriched culture and strong cohesive neighbourhoods. Diversity is about recognising, understanding and celebrating differences, which can add real value and enjoyment to all people's lives.

So in order to highlight the history, cultural heritage, achievements and valued contributions that African, African Caribbean and Asian communities make to British society, we are pleased to be celebrating the annual international festival during October 2010.

All events are free unless otherwise stated. They are open to everyone, so whatever your background, taste or interests, we think there is something for everyone to enjoy during this year's Black History Month celebration in Solihull.

We do hope you enjoy them!



Councillor Ian Hedley,  
Leader of Solihull Council  
Chair of Solihull Partnership

## Black History Month

### Introduction

Black History Month originated in America in 1926 when Carter G. Woodson, a journal editor, established African Caribbean festivities in America. In Britain it has developed into an annual celebration taking place every October. Traditionally there has been a focus on African and Caribbean heritage, but many Black History Month events and programmes now also identify with Asian culture. Nationally of course the contribution of African, Caribbean and Asian communities to our history and development has been wide-ranging, the reasons for commemorating them are obvious, but why do we celebrate Black History Month in Solihull?

Solihull is increasingly characterised by its changing demographics including its ethnic minority population. It is important that all communities across the borough are actively supported in promoting good community relations based on mutual trust and respect. Thus the celebration of events, such as Black History Month, can aid in promoting this unity of cultures.

Black History Month is one of many cultural events celebrated here in Solihull. It allows us to recognise, understand and celebrate differences, which add real value and enjoyment to the lives of all people and ensure that communities across Solihull remain strong and cohesive. Only with this united structure can Solihull move forward as a borough.





## Black History Month Launch

Friday 1 October, 2pm – 4pm

Chelmsley Wood Town Centre



Black History Month kicks off with a special 5th anniversary launch where you can enjoy a free unique preview of a classic theatre performance (see page 4) as well as a variety of events and activities looking at heritage and culture taking place in a special marquee, including:



**Solihull Community Read** – encouraging people in Solihull to read award winning novels - Brick Lane by Monica Ali or Small Island by Andrea Levy, write a review and win a prize. (see page 5)



**Caribbean Family History Exhibition & Workshop** – Learn more about your family history and heritage, as well as researching ancestors and even your family tree. (see page 12)

**Akamba African Heritage and Garden Centre Display** – Native garden centre offering an exciting range of cold hardy exotic plants.

**Solihull Parks Exotic Plants Display** – An exotic display of colourful plants presented by Solihull Council's Park Rangers.

**You+ Health Care** – Solihull's healthy lifestyle shop presents a range of health awareness activities. Solihull SUSTAIN's Health Trainers will also be on hand offering free healthy lifestyle advice. Specific information on medical conditions more commonly found within Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority communities will also be available.



Live music and cultural food will also be available at this event.

## The Tragedy of King Christophe – Nu Century Arts

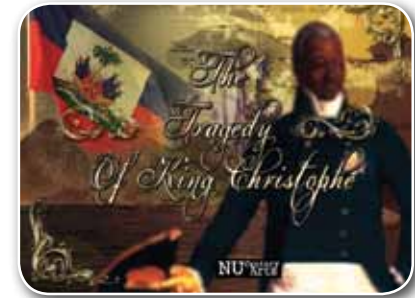
Friday 1 October, 2pm – 4pm

The Loft, Chelmsley Wood Town Centre

Nu Century Arts, specialists in African Caribbean theatre productions across the Midlands, showcases a unique preview of *The Tragedy of King Christophe* – a classic play by Aime Cesaire. Based on the life of Henri Christophe, a leader of the enslaved Africans that took their freedom and created Haiti in 1804, this free preview is one of three live performances taking place throughout Black History Month.

**Tickets:** Free

**Box Office:** 0121 523 5551



## Not Quite Gospel

Tuesday 12 October – 7:30pm

Solihull Arts Complex, Homer Road, Solihull, B91 9RG

An uplifting musical drama about love, faith and responsibility in a poor inner city neighbourhood. *Not Quite Gospel* is an engaging story illustrating the power of belief set in today's Britain. Directed by award-winning director Steven Luckie, the play features a stellar cast of musical and acting performers, including Emmanuel Edwards and Eska Mtungwazi.

**Tickets:** £10 - Adults (£8 concession)

£6 – Schools, Children  
and Community Groups

Discounts available for  
family and friends of those  
taking part in the play

**Box Office:** 0121 704 6962





## Solihull Community Read

**Opening Date: Friday 1 October**

**Closing Date: Sunday 31 October**

### Solihull Libraries

Read a book... write a review... win a prize! - A community based reading initiative exploring the immigrant experience through literature.

Read one of our selected novels – *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali or *Small Island* by Andrea Levy – submit a review and be in with a chance of winning a prize!

Both award-winning titles have been chosen as illustrating issues associated with national identity, belonging, prejudice and alienation.

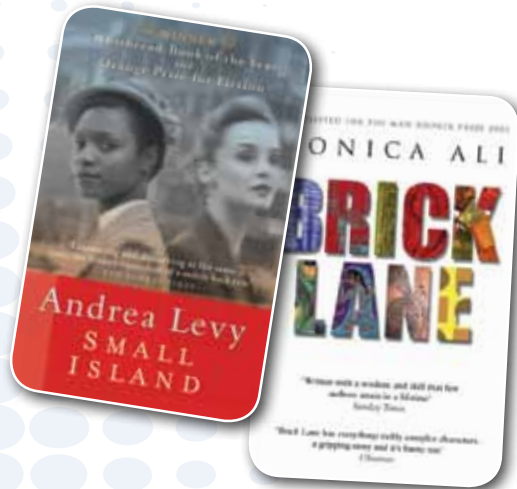
Simply collect a book at any Solihull Library throughout October and submit your review (between 250-500 words).

There are a host of ways you can return your review both online and offline including:

- **Email:** 247library@solihull.gov.uk
- **Post:** Stock & Reader, Solihull Central Library, Homer Road, Solihull, B91 3RG
- **Web Blog:** <http://solihullreads.wordpress.com>
- **Twitter:** using the hashtag #solbhm
- **Facebook:** 'Like' the Solihull Libraries Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/solihulllibraries](http://www.facebook.com/solihulllibraries) and post your thoughts there
- **YouTube & Audiobook:** Upload your audio or video review and email us the link! (1-2 minutes max)

The best review will be awarded our special Black History Month prize. So get reading and reviewing!

**Contact: Angela Day on 0121 704 8087**



## Sure Start Children's Centres Celebrating Diversity

**Age: 0 – 5 years-old  
up to 8-years-old for children with additional needs**

Solihull's Children's Centres are celebrating diversity throughout October with a series of fun activities for parents and children. This new event features a range of diverse experiences and workshops about different cultures within the local community. Activities include mask making, flags and many other creative activities.

**All events will be taking place at the following venues:**

### Mill Lodge

Monday 4 October  
1:30pm – 3pm

### Chelmsley Wood

Tuesday 5 October  
10:30am – 12pm

Thursday 7 October  
1:30pm – 3pm

### Shirley Heath

Wednesday 6 October  
1:30pm – 3pm

### Burman

Friday 8 October  
9:15am – 10:45am

### Kingshurst

Monday 11 October  
1:30pm – 3pm

### Castle Bromwich

Wednesday 13 October  
9:30am – 11am

### Lyndon

Wednesday 13 October  
10am – 11:30am

### Smith's Wood

Thursday 14 October  
10am – 11:30am

Saturday 16 October  
10am – 11:30am

### Marston Green

Friday 15 October  
1:30pm – 3pm

**Sure Start  
Children's Centres**

Solihull





# Quiz



## Business

1. Granted an OBE in 2006, which Ghana-born fashion designer/tailor is credited with revolutionising Saville Row, and has clients including Will Smith, Jude Law, Chris Rock and Keanu Reeves?
2. When appointed Chief Executive in 2009 Tidjane Thiam became the first Black person to lead a major British company – which company was it?
3. At the end of 2009 which entrepreneur and TV personality became Chair of The Big Issue magazine?
4. Which British fashion house, specialising in shoes, immortalised by Sex and the City also made shoes for Princess Diana?

## Arts & Entertainment

1. What is the name of the Newsround presenter who grew up in Solihull and is now the BBC News entertainment correspondent?
2. Which television presenter and fashion guru likes to help people look good naked?
3. The renowned comic Shazia Mirza hails from which UK city?
4. What is the name of the award-winning Andrea Levy novel, adapted for TV and shown on BBC in 2009, set in post-war England and tells the story of a Jamaican couple and their landlady?

## Politics

1. Making his mark in 1774 who became the first black person to vote in a British election?
2. The 2010 UK General Elections saw the number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic MPs nearly double – how many do we have?
3. Which woman became the first Asian person to hold a Cabinet post in a UK government?
4. In which country was the first black American President, Barack Obama's, father born?

# Quiz



## Sports

1. Who became the first British man to take the 5,000m and 10,000m double at the 2010 European Championships?
2. Which football team does the twice England capped Silhillian Zat Knight currently play for?
3. Isa Guha became the first Asian woman to represent Britain in which sport?
4. In which event did the successful Solihull-born athlete Daniel Caines compete?

## Science and technology

1. In which field is Kevin Fong a leading expert?  
**a. space medicine b. environmental defence c. dentistry**
2. At what age did Heenal Raichura become the youngest ever medical doctor in the UK?
3. George Washington Carver developed over 300 products from peanuts, which of these weren't on that list?  
**a. butter b. paper c. ink d. glass e. soap**
4. The modern British inventor Tony Waithe is known for inventing two of the three products below, which one has he not invented?  
**a. fire escape ladder b. clothes airer c. bicycle saddle**

## All sorts

1. Shindo Kaur Barquer, the winner of the 2010 Asian Women of Achievement top award, is a Chief Inspector for which police force?
2. What was the name of King George III's wife (Queen Victoria's grandmother) who is reported to have African ancestry?
3. Which X-factor act scooped the Best Newcomer award at the MOBO Awards 2009, as well as winning British Breakthrough at the 2010 Brit Awards?

**Answers:** An answer sheet is available at any Solihull library or visit [www.solihull.gov.uk](http://www.solihull.gov.uk)





## Solihull College Events

All events run between 11:30am – 1:30pm

Tuesday 19 October: Blossomfield Campus – The Link

Thursday 21 October: Woodlands Campus – The Atrium

For more information call Solihull College on 0121 678 7000



Solihull College is once again presenting a range of activities, appearances and workshops for you to get involved in. These events are held at both the Woodlands and Blossomfield campuses.

All activities are free and there is no need to pre-book.

### Black Heroes Exhibition

An art exhibition displayed at both campuses to give students an insight into some of the most influential figures in the Black community including Nelson Mandela and Bob Marley.



### Khabbadi Tournament - Blossomfield Campus only

Take part in this popular robust Indian sports activity. Khabbadi is a combative team game with seven players. Each side takes alternate chances of offence and defence. Points are achieved by raiding into the opponents' court and touching as many defence players as possible without getting caught, on just a single breath!

## African Drumming

Experience the complex and compulsive rhythms of West Africa in this informal drumming workshop.



### Floor Arts

A popular form of Indian floor art, or rangoli, uses traditional materials such as brightly dyed coconut, beans and seeds to create vibrant patterns and pictures across a large area. Come and add your designs to the Solihull College composition!

### Mendhi (Henna) Hand Painting

Mehndi or Henna is a temporary form of Asian skin decoration traditionally used on the hands or feet. See this intricate and beautiful artwork take shape!





## Solihull College Events (cont)

All events run between 11:30am – 1:30pm

Tuesday 19 October: Blossomfield Campus – The Link

Thursday 21 October: Woodlands Campus – The Atrium

For more information call Solihull College on 0121 678 7000



### Theatre Production

Performing Arts from the college will be presenting a short theatre performance reflecting the heritage of the Black Caribbean community.



### Black and Ethnic Minority Nurse Service

Launch of Solihull College's new nurse service aimed at supporting Black and Ethnic Minority students within the college.



### African Carnival Masks

A workshop which gives you the chance to make your own traditional African masks.



### 'Talking Heads' Media Project

Media students will be working on a special project which captures the experiences of Black and Ethnic Minority students at the college.

### Language Profile Project

Hosting an online survey to help discover the range of languages spoken by students at the college.

## Family Learning Festival presents Storytime with Clive Cole

Wednesday 6 October

Solihull Central Library - 10am – 10:30am

Chelmsley Wood Library - 11:15am – 12pm

Tuesday 12 October

Castle Bromwich Library

10:15am – 11am

Kingshurst Library

11:30am – 12:15pm

Authentic stories with an African setting and traditional musical instruments, performed by award-winning storyteller Clive Cole.

Contact: Steve Palmer - 0121 704 6984  
stpalmer@solihull.gov.uk



### Caribbean Family History Workshop

Saturday 31 October

Solihull Central Library

Do you have an interest in finding out more about your family history? This event shows you how you can get started and even create your own computer-based family tree. A range of research techniques and examples of online family research can also be explored.

### Caribbean Family History Exhibition

Throughout October

Solihull Central Library

An interactive exhibition where you can learn more about your family history and heritage, as well as researching ancestors and even your family tree.

Contact: Carlson Walters  
cfhg\_solihull@yahoo.co.uk





## One Solihull

**Saturday 16 October – 11am – 1pm**

**Bosworth Community Centre, 291a Bosworth Drive,  
Chelmsley Wood, Solihull, B37 5DP**

An entertaining variety of events and activities including street dance performances, dhol players, bhangra dancers, bongo artist and music. Craft stalls offering henna tattoos, jewellery making and lots of children's activities will also be on offer together with food from different cultures including Italian, Afro Caribbean and Indian delicacies.

This event has been organised by Ashram Housing Association in conjunction with Solihull Community Housing.

**Contact: Jasvinder Sandhu – 0121 770 8570  
jasvinders@ashrama.org.uk**



## Family Learning Festival: Food Art

**Age: 7+**

**Advanced bookings required**

**Saturday 23 October – 10:30am – 12:30pm**

**Hobs Moat Library, Ulleries Road**

**Saturday 23 October – 2:30pm – 4:30pm**

**Solihull Central Library, Homer Road**

Your children will be taken on a culinary journey around the world exploring a variety of cultural dishes. Explore colours, patterns and textures to create your very own art work to take home.

**Contact: Hobs Moat Library – 0121 743 4592  
Solihull Central Library – 0121 704 6968**

**Bookings will be taken two weeks prior to each event. To confirm your places contact the numbers provided for each venue.**

*Please note all children must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.*

## Kingshurst presents a Caribbean experience

**Friday 15 October**

**NTCOG, Gilson Way, Kingshurst, Solihull**

Experience the religious culture of the Caribbean through a variety of ethnic food and activities for all the local community to enjoy.

**Contact: Patricia Whyte – 07727 693 144, pat.whyte@msn.com**

## Diwali Lantern Workshop

**Tuesday 26 October – 10am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm**

**Solihull Arts Complex, Homer Road, Solihull, B91 9RG**

The South Asian Arts Development Agency for the West Midlands presents the first of two celebratory events for Diwali – the Indian festival of lights. This craft workshop allows you to design and make your very own lantern in the lead up to the Diwali celebrations in November.

**Contact: Lawrence Smith – 0121 704 6961  
lawrencsmith@solihull.gov.uk**



## Diwali: Dancing the Ramayana

**Tuesday 9 November – 7pm**

**Solihull Arts Complex, Homer Road, Solihull, B91 9RG**

Celebrating the Indian festival of Diwali - the festival of lights. This event features lively dance performances by Chikraleta and Sonia Sabri. Also includes a lantern procession.

**Tickets: £10 - Adults (£8 concession)  
£6 – Schools, Children and Community Groups  
Discounts available for family and friends of those taking part**

**Box Office: 0121 704 6962**

