

Black History Month in Reading

Events will be held across Reading this month to mark a celebration of black communities.

Black History Month was first established in the USA by Dr Carter G Woodson for African American people to have the opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge themselves and their achievements.

In England, Black History Month was first celebrated in October 1987 as part of a drive to improve racial harmony in London and has since grown to encompass the whole country to recognise and embrace the contributions and traditions of other black communities.

From Thursday, October 1 to Saturday, October 31, there are a variety of related events happening in Reading and the surrounding area including exhibitions, talks, shows, workshops and music.

Saturday, October 10

A nine-year-old girl, Alyssa, from Reading will be exhibiting her art work at Battle Library from 2.30pm and 4pm.

The theme is Then and Now ... showing images from slavery to now. The collection consists of slaves, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr, Barack Obama and many more.

Entry is free and some pieces can be bought there.

Thursday, October 15

An evening with Jamila Gavin at Woodley Library at 6.30pm.

Hear the author of *Coram Boy* - Jamila Gavin talk about her written work and how multiculturalism has influenced her work. There will be an opportunity for questions, to buy some of Jamila's books and have them signed, courtesy of Chapter One Bookshop.

This event is free of charge, to book a place call Woodley Library on (0118) 969 0304.

Saturday, October 24

Maasai Warrior storytelling at Wokingham Library from 10am to 10.30am.

Hear some traditional animal stories from Maasai Warrior Boniface Mpario. This session for families is free but please call Wokingham Library to book a place on (0118) 978 1368.

Maasai warrior Boniface Mpario will also be talking about the Maasai tribe, its history and culture at Wokingham Library from 11am to midday.

This is a free event but please call Wokingham Library to book a place on (0118) 978 1368.

Friday, October 30

The SHINE event being held at South Reading Youth and Community Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading, will showcase the works of musicians, artists, performers, photographers and fashion designers plus traditional African and Caribbean food, courtesy of a newly formed community group called Art For The Part. The event is now supported by residents who want to bring art, fashion & music back to the heart of Whitley.

Monday 16 October to Friday 20 October

St Anne's and St Martin's Schools will be holding a Black History Week. The children will be learning about famous African Americans and the music, dance and art of black peoples and communities.