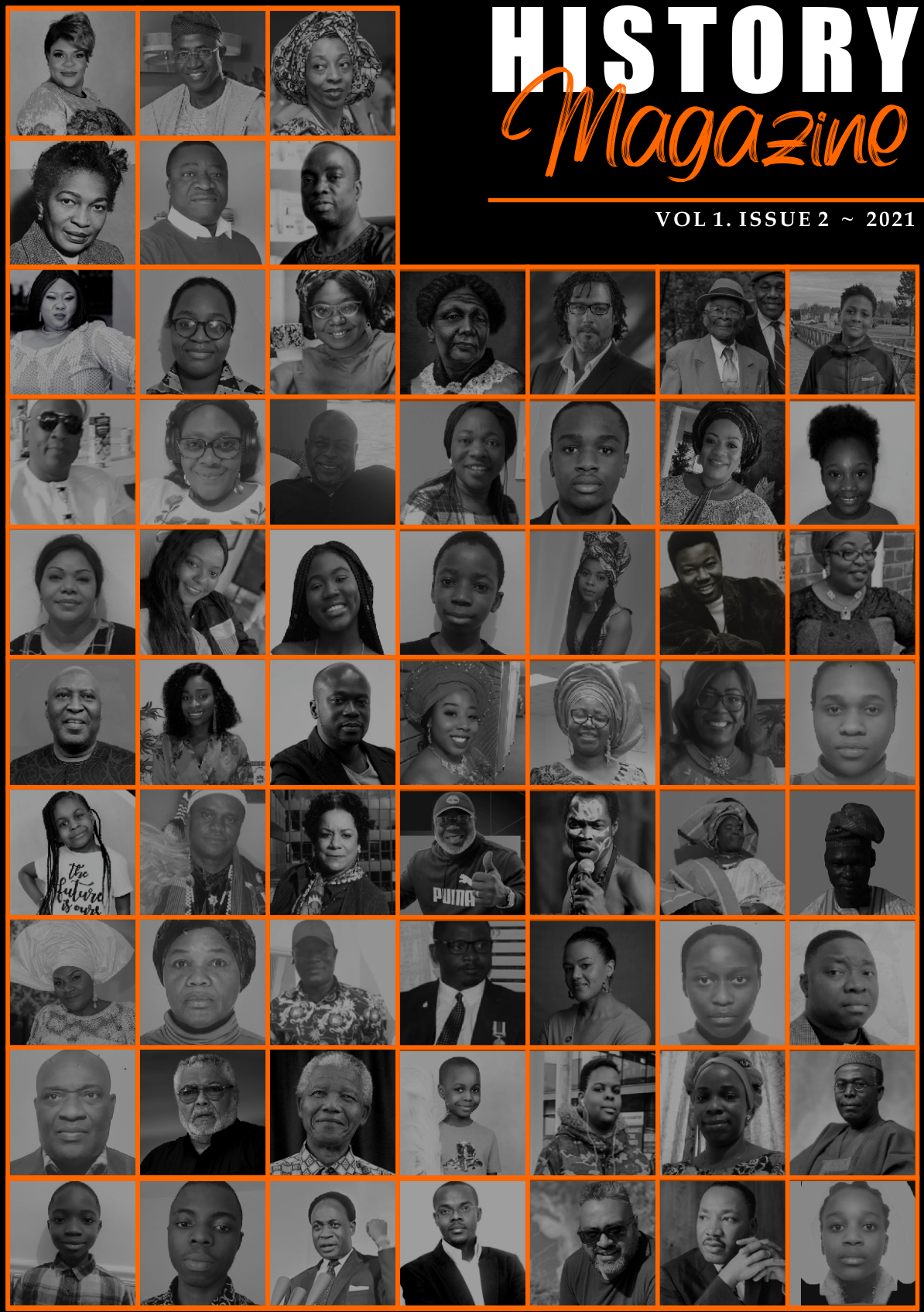
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BLACK HISTORY Magazine

VOL 1. ISSUE 2 ~ 2021



NIGERIA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

...promoting identity culture & stronger community





We Nigeria Community Association aim to Promoting Identity Culture and Stronger Community through community projects and events focused on reaching out to people.

We aim to bring life to the entire Manchester Community especially the Rochdale Community.

Our aim is to end loneliness / depression and change the lives of those affected by it.

To support and empower the community, asylum seekers, and the deprived in the Community by educating, training and rendering services for Community integration.

To support celebrate the potential in our Youth and also empower them.

Our aim is to promote equality and diversity by discussing issues that will help integrate Nigerians with other ethnic groups in Rochdale and beyond.

Our aim is not only to promote the Nigerian culture but to learn about other cultures and promote unity and peace amongst Nigerians living in Rochdale and beyond.

We aim to liaise with other Nigerian Associations in UK, to learn the British culture and promote laws and order within the society.

Nigeria is reach in culture and we aim to showcase our cultural heritage as well as be part of Britain's multi -cultural society.

For further enquiries please contact:

Mary Adekugbe
Founder/Chairperson Nigeria Community Association
07456136150 . 01706341673
WWW. ncaro.co.uk
Twitter:@Nigeriacommuni4
Facebook: Nigeria Community Association



Black History Magazine

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Nigeria Community Association Welcomes

BLACK HISTORY MAGAZINE

2020/2021

by Founder / CEO, Mary Adekugbe



Nigeria Community Association has been collecting and celebrating the case studies of unsung heroes who have made significant contributions in communities and in society.

The magazine features the heritage of African and Caribbean communities Living or Working in Rochdale and some black heroes.

A new magazine celebrating Black history is being put together in Black History Month by the Nigeria Community Association Rochdale in collaboration with Beejs Heritage Foundation and Rochdale Council.

The magazine features the heritage of African and Caribbean communities in Rochdale through stories, quotes, portraits, images, workshops, and events.

The magazine is influenced by the likes of Dr. Erinma Bell MBE DL, a celebrated and widely-recognised peace activist and champion for social justice who has also been named as one of the most influential women in Greater Manchester.

In 2003 Dr Bell co-founded and chaired CARISMA Community Alliance for Renewal Inner South Manchester Area, providing positive alternatives to street crime for young people.

The magazine is also influenced by footballer Marcus Rashford MBE, medical practitioner Dr. Omoshalewa Agbeja, as well as local leaders, including former Mayor Mohammed Zaman, former Mayor Sultan Ali, Councillor Faisal Rana, Councillor Janet Emsley, Mayor Billy Sheerin, MP Tony Lloyd, and council leader Allen Brett.

The new magazine – will be a regular issue it has been put together throughout October, coinciding with the UK's Black History Month, which has been celebrated nationwide for over 30 years. It was originally founded to recognise the contributions made over many generations to the UK by people of Africa and Caribbean backgrounds.

Now, Black History Month has expanded to include the history of not just Africans and Caribbean people, but black people in general.

Mary from the Nigeria Community Association Rochdale said: "Black history should be an everyday celebration, as it entails the long existence and standings of the black race.

"At NCA, we are inclined to celebrate Black History Month through our Black History annual Magazine. However, this cannot be captured in a given day or a month, as these are decades' worth of historic moments that require so much research and movement.

"Our magazine will encompass the benefit of the Black community living and working in our borough, and will unveil the heritage of everyday people.

"Our aim is for the names and stories of Black heroes and contributors to be a hallmark on the hearts of generations to come, as well as identify their heritage as Black, to stand astutely and believe in themselves.

In one of our quarterly grassroots meetings, the importance of Black History Month was discussed and why this should be taught in schools to all young people was explained.

The hosts explained it is important for young people to recognise, understand and celebrate the contributions of black people to society and human rights for all and the importance of Black History Month to black people.

There was a time when black history was ignored but now there is a wider audience that explained they strive for black history to be celebrated constantly and not just for one month of the year.

For some young people, there is confusion about their identity, and it is unfair for children not to understand their history and heritage. This is evidence that black people face many challenges at school and they are underrepresented.

"It is also a period of recognition, reconciliation, renewal, and a review of the Black race.

2020 has held a mirror up to the world and forced many to see the reality of racism and discrimination in all forms. From Black people dying disproportionately in the pandemic, to the horrific murder of George Floyd and many more.

#BlackLivesMatter protests around the world sparked a commitment among many individuals and organisations to educate themselves about Black history, heritage, and culture as part of understanding racism and standing in solidarity against it. If that commitment is to transcend beyond social media into real change, everyone from all communities needs to embrace Black History Month as a starting point for exploring, discovering, and celebrating Black history, heritage, and culture both past and contemporary. From the incredible achievements and contributions to the many untold stories and barriers to progress, the day to day reality of institutionalised racism.

Crucially, this year's Black History Month is a time to shine a light on our shared British history and tell the whole story honestly and truthfully.

Black History Month is also a time to look forward and celebrate the here and now and the future possibilities. In years gone by, October has been the only time of year when the UK talks about the achievements of Black people in Britain. The events of 2020 will be a catalyst for Black history to be shared much more widely in schools, universities, public spaces, galleries, museums, and communities.
Black people have always made history and always will, but it is equally important that Black people take on how that history is discovered, explored, researched, recorded, archived, curated, exhibited, and shared.



J welcome you all to this season of **Black History Celebration.**

Sequel to the rhetoric of "Black Lives Matter", it is apparent that we have come of age by the brazen efforts displayed among our ethnic minorities and staunch supporters swirling from the USA to many parts of Europe, Asia, Middle East, Australia and Africa.

There is a glimmer of hope in winning the plague of social maladies; oppressions, injustice and racism in its totality. Thankfully, the signals are reverberating across the World that the Black man deserves dignity, respect and all fundamental human rights as other human beings. However, this will not happen by mere wishful thinking, noise making, sheer violence or disruption but our collective efforts at resisting intimidation and social inequality through repositioning of ourselves, human capacity development, empowerment and patriotism. For those of us in foreign countries, we should endeavour to optimise the social benefits available in adding values to our lives through education, career progression and self-development to take up leadership roles in key sectors for good representation of our people to make our voices heard and ultimately boost welfare and sanctity of lives. I hereby spur you on to be relentless, unapologetic and passionate to fight a good fight and ensure the struggles of our past & fallen heroes are not in vain.

Without mincing words, I stand in solidarity with ardent supporters of BLM to see an erasure of all structural Anti-Black policies, ideological inequality and chronic social dysfunctions peculiar to our ethnic minority.

I counted myself to be gifted and a blessing to humanity, proud to be African, beacon of democracy and a feminist, happily married with 2 kids. Started my medical career in Nigeria, 1993 (O.A.U Ile – Ife), Had a trackable work life in the Nigeria Airforce Hospital as well as notable private Healthcare Institutions, Lagos. In 2004, had a stint in Reproductive Medicine at Baylor University, Houston. Subspecialty Training in Emergency Medicine at Borders General Hospital, Edinburgh (2005), Went on a career break until 2014 due to family commitments and resumed Specialty Training in The Pennine NHS Trust to working as a Specialist at various hospitals till today.

Finally, I salute the courage of our dear Convener and Frontliner; Mrs. Mary Adekugbe, you are inspirational & much appreciated, please keep up the good work you are doing and best wishes to you and your team.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Omoshalewa Agbeja



Dr.(Mrs) Omoshalewa.J Agbeja.
MB.Ch.B, DRCOG, MRCGP

one financial solutions

One solution for all your financial needs



Need Financial Advice?

Then let me help you!
I'm Sajjad Hussain,
your local Financial Adviser.

Do you need advice about your pension? Would you like to review your savings or investment portfolio? Are you thinking about buying a new property or, perhaps, considering equity release?

It can be difficult to know where to get good, reliable, Financial Advice, especially if you want a service that provides everything under one roof.

I'm a qualified Financial Adviser and can offer you expert advice on all your financial needs, both personal and commercial.

Investments, pensions, savings, inheritance tax planning, mortgages, equity release, life insurance, business protection – and much more.

By providing you with advice tailored to your needs along with a high level of service, I aim to win your trust and build a long - term relationship with you; a relationship that means I can help you both now and, as your financial circumstances and goals change, in the future.

For a free initial consultation, either in the comfort of your own home or at any of our offices, please contact me using the details below to book an appointment.

I look forward to meeting you!



Sajjad Hussain

BSc. (Hons), MBA, CeMAP, CeRER, MLIBF DipFA, PETR, MANI
Financial Adviser

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NIGERIA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SAY NO TO

HATE CRIME!

Hate Crime is not just offensive, it is an offence!

Hate crime not only harms its victims, it also harms their families and communities.

We are committed to join the government in tackling hate crime.
Our objective is to raise awareness of what hate crime is and help people understand that it is not right to target individuals based on their identity, be it race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability

REPORT HATE CRIME

Report it online at
www.report.it.org.uk
Report it to your local police call 101
In an emergency, always dial 999.



Dr. Erinma Bell MBE

It is time for museums to return artefacts to

Africa

Black History Month, which runs throughout October, is an opportunity to reflect on both the contributions of Black people to the world and the reality of how we have been treated by western society.

National cultural and spiritual treasures from around the world were stolen and retained during colonisation.

These artefacts were often acquired in a context of violence and massacre.

Today, thousands of objects, and even human remains, are retained as spoils of war.

When it comes to Africa, 95 per cent of the cultural and spiritual treasures of Africa are out of Africa.

They are, amongst other places, in the Tervuren Museum in Brussels, the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris, the British Museum in London and Manchester Museum.

The collective memory of such artefacts, which was handed down as stories of culture, heritage and spirituality from our past, has been lost.

As African peoples were stolen and lost, so were artefacts.

We need an understanding of their loss.

When African citizens want to teach their legacy to their children, they cannot, because most of these artefacts are scattered around Europe and the Americas.

They are deprived of their memory through artefacts as they once were through their kidnapped forefathers and mothers.

At the end of the 19th Century, British troops looted thousands of works of art from the Benin Empire (modern-day Nigeria) and brought them back to England.

One soldier's grandson inherited two life-size

bronzes but recently returned them to their original home.

It needs to be understood that those things that were removed, from Benin, were chapters of Our-story [history] book.

When they were made, the Benin people did not know how to write so, whatever happened, the Oba instructed the bronze casters to record it.

I think museums and collectors should return things back to the rightful owners.

They mean so much to the original owners, but they mean nothing to the British.

Museums and other collectors should return this African legacy and knowledge back to the rightful communities by, first and foremost, engaging with the communities of concern through intercultural dialogue.

The decision to return items is so often framed around what we (the British) lose rather than what can be gained.

It is an opportunity to engage with the communities who own the stories, history and legacy of such artefacts so that we all can truly understand the heritage, culture and spiritual connections passed down from the ancestors.

Restitution cannot be denied.

Erinma Bell MBE is a Trustee of We Stand Together

#WeStandTogether is the Greater Manchester Combined Authority brand for cohesion initiatives.



First woman, in 150 years, to have a statue of herself unveiled in Manchester Town Hall

Deputy Leiutenant for County of Greater Manchester

Recognised as one of the 100 Inspiring Women in Manchester

Listed as one of the 250 Most Influential People in Greater Manchster

Recognised as one of the Top 100 Nigerians in UK, 2014

Ambassador for Moss Side, Manchester

Rotary Peace Fellow



Goodwill Message On Black History

Councillor Allen Brett, *Leader of the Rochdale Council*

I have always been proud of our multi-cultural, diverse and tolerant borough. As we mark the important Black history month, let's remember the key role Rochdale has played in campaigning against injustices and for a fairer and more equal society. From the struggle to end the slave trade, the stance of local cotton workers in the 19th century, through welcoming communities from across the world, Rochdale has often led the way.

It was a great honour for me, as a young man, to teach in Uganda between 1971 and 1973. It helped shape my life and enshrine the principles of equality, compassion and multi culturalism I have always stood for. Society has made great strides since, but across the globe there is still far too much racial inequality. That's why black history month is such an important event on the calendar. It's a chance to remind people of the many struggles black people have overcome, the injustices they have fought against, and the challenges that remain in defeating those who seek to divide, discriminate and repress.

The black lives matter campaign has shone a light on the hate and evil that needs to be defeated once and for all. Black people past and present across our borough have many achievements and successes to their name. So, let us use this month to celebrate that wonderful work and, in that true Rochdalian way, continue the fight for a fairer, more tolerant and equal society.

MP Tony Lloyd, Member of Parliament for Rochdale, celebrate Black History with Nigeria Community Association.

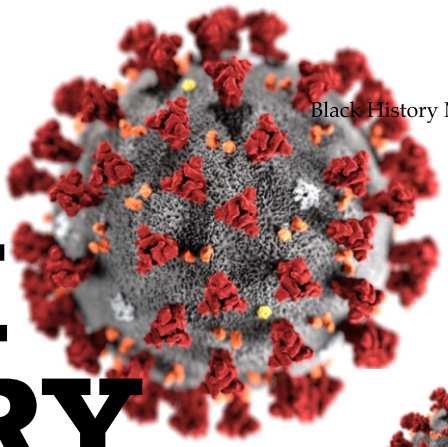
Celebrating Black History Month along with many of my constituents in Rochdale. You don't have to be from a BAME background from African or Afro Caribbean heritage to recognise the importance of black history, and I very well recall the great civilizations that arose in Africa that saw the production of great literature great music, great art, which influenced not simply people in Africa, but literally across this planet of ours and we should still remember and celebrate that today, and I recall as well. I'm old enough to the struggles for independence the bravery of people who fought for independence in Africa across the Caribbean, and the sacrifices they made. That's part of our common history, and we should again remember it. Now in this small world of ours where we're joined together in so many different ways. Black History is all our history. Black History is part of what made our world, that what it is today. And we remember, and we celebrate.

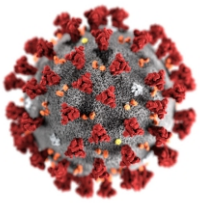


MP Tony Lloyd,
Member of Parliament for Rochdale, celebrates
Black History
with NCA

By: Tayo Mustapha

BLACK HISTORY MONTH





The Covid19 Angle !

If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition,' said historian Carter Godwin Woodson, whose work led to creation of Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual observance that commemorates the history and achievements of members of the black community.

In the US – where it originated in the early 20th century – the month is also known as African-American History Month.

Here is everything you need to know about Black History Month:

When is it?

Black History Month takes place every year in the United Kingdom in October. The annual observance is also commemorated in other parts of Europe during October, including Ireland and the Netherlands.

In the US, where Black History Month originated, the awareness month is held in February.

It is also celebrated in Canada during the month of February, where it became an officially-recognised event in 1995.

How did it start?

Virginian-born Carter Godwin Woodson, a historian and co-founder of the "Association for the Study of Negro Life and History" (now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History), is credited with being the "father of black history".

In February 1926, Woodson and his organisation launched "Negro History Week", a precursor to Black History Month.

The group chose the second week of February for the observance to coincide with the birthdays of 16th US president Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass.

Woodson believed the teaching of black history was vital in the study of race within society, stating: "If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated."

The week grew in popularity over the years, inspiring the creation of black history clubs and prompting mayors across the country to endorse it as a holiday.

Following more than four decades of the week, the first celebration of Black History Month in the US was held at Kent State University in 1970 from 2 January until 28 February.

In 1976, US President Gerald Ford recognised Black History Month, urging members of the public to "seize the opportunity to honour the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavour throughout our history".

Black History Month was first celebrated in the UK in 1987, an event that was organised by Ghanaian-born Akyaaba Addai-Sebo.

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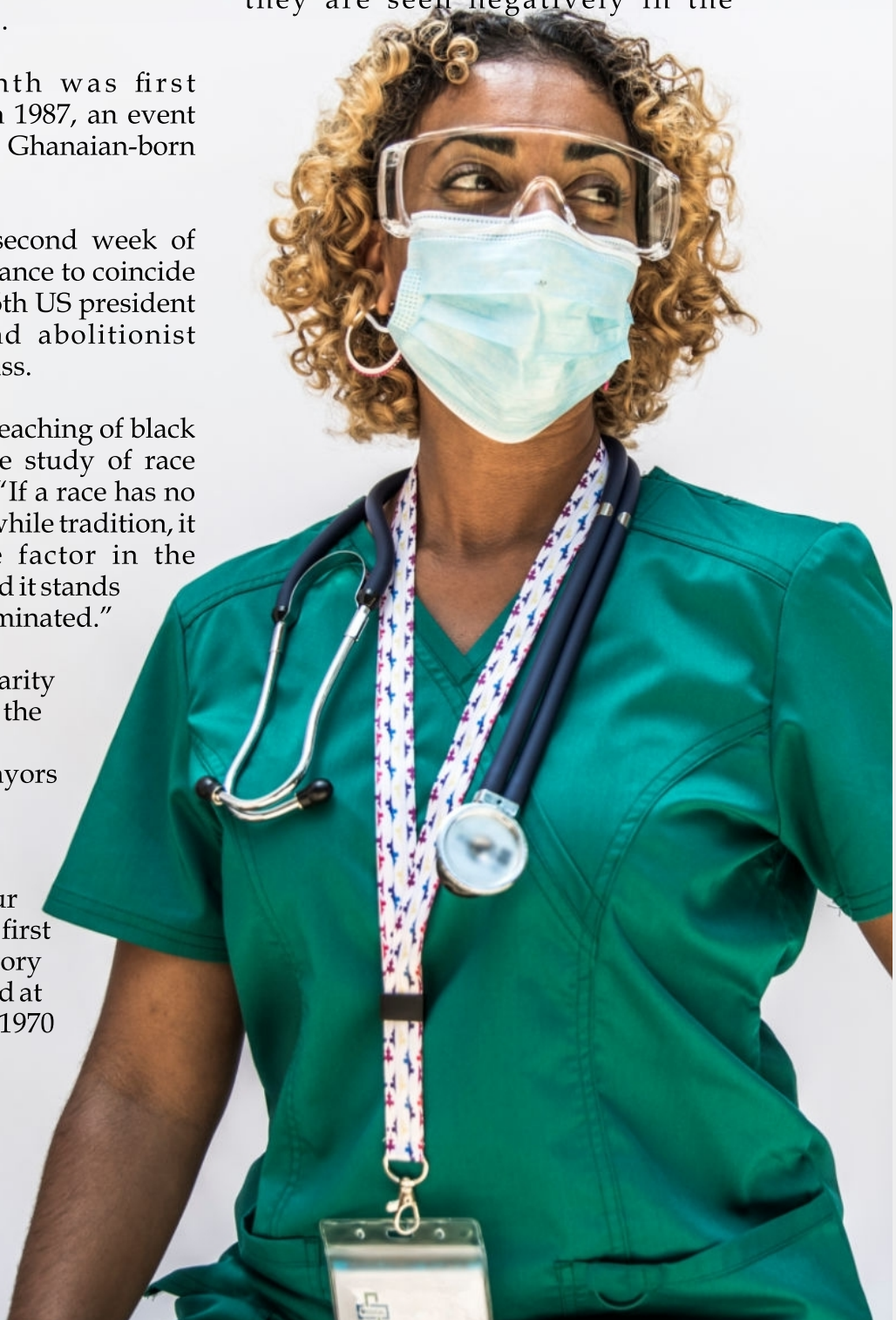
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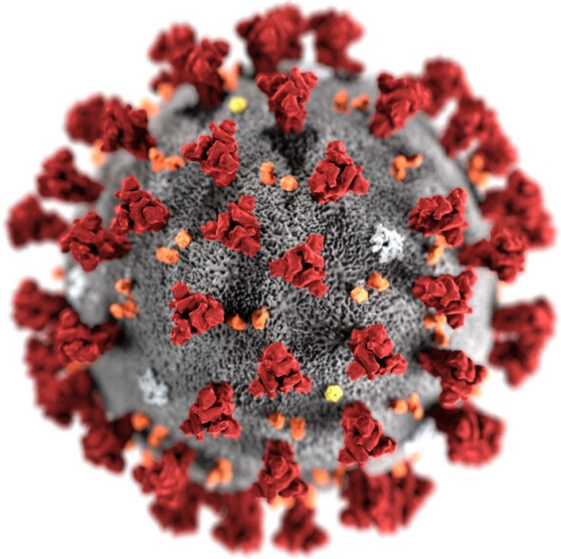
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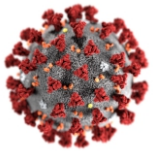
Gerald Ford recognised Black History Month, urging members of the public to "seize the opportunity to honour the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavour throughout our history".

Chiefly amongst its various themes is RID (Representation, Identity, Diversity). It epitomises a focus on black heritage and how young people feel they are seen negatively in the



community, and want to change that by ridding the stigma and focusing on their true representation, identifying who they are and incorporating the diversity of all the different cultures and heritage to rid the stigma around young black people.





The COVID19 Angle

Since the outbreak of COVID19, the world has indeed changed; dovetailing into severe and huge paradigm change in the human interpersonal relationship. The increasing scare associated with COVID19 berthed the adaptation and adoption of the face-to- face interaction via the Zoom technological platform, which has expanded the ability to reach people globally without the risk of infection as well as by allowing those who are more isolated to participate and have a voice.

Specifically, these largely hidden voices contain insights into how socio-economic inequalities arise, and are sustained, how racism operates and how we can empower people and communities to direct change.
According to feelers, these set of people have been opportuned to tell their life story their own way which has been described as 'incredible', 'a boost' and a mechanism that has helped 'get a burden off their individual and collective shoulders'. This has obviously justified the assertion that with access to an ever evolving technological means, this empathic, mutual, risk free communication process can transcend the virtual format.

Further to this, digital stories created from the life story findings to inform discussions in a range of collaborative policy focus groups to enhance the continuous advocacy for the development of the black race and other ethnic minority people. In this way, with their stories widely shared, they will no longer be hidden.

While mindful of the reality that the socio-economic and political effects of COVID19 on the global world are endless and inexhaustible for a short discussion or analysis as this, it is pertinent to, perhaps, as a matter of interest consider the social spill overs.

The gendered impact of the pandemic

As reported, the effects of the pandemic have been unequal, to say the least. Although with differed opinions, the economy has suffered greatly as a result of COVID-19, these effects have been felt by some much more than others.

Women, in particular, have endured worse labour outcomes than men during the pandemic. According to reports, black women made up 70 per cent of job losses among working-age adults since March, 2020, the first month of most provincial-wide lockdowns. These job losses included a reduction in hours or dismissal from a position

entirely, affecting up to one in five women nationwide.

COVID19 has increasingly and apparently showed that society's most vulnerable are bearing the brunt of this virus. The effects of the pandemic have continuously oppressed those facing socioeconomic hardships, illness, and systemic racism. The need for physical distancing is weighed against possible consequences on mental health and quality of life, particularly in older adults.

Older adults are widely recognized as the age group most vulnerable to COVID-19, with the highest mortality rate. As of May, 2020, over 80 per cent of COVID-19 related deaths in the United Kingdom were from the older adults. As such, physical distancing is crucial for this demographic — but the consequences on older adults' are largely unexplored.

Social isolation can increase morbidity rates by increasing risks for mental health disorders and other illnesses, and may even exacerbate neurodegenerative diseases like dementia.

In long-term care specifically, strict visitor policies and lack of technology for virtual visits can deprive residents of much-needed social interactions.

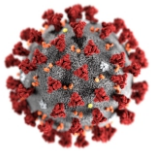
According to experts, "the pandemic produces feelings of worry because anxiety tends to come when we feel like we're under threat and… we're either not equipped or we don't have the power to do anything about it. In such situations, your sympathetic nervous system activates the fight-or-flight response, making you feel on edge,"
In reality, this pandemic has resulted in a loss of organization, structure, and human existence that the society should or would have enabled the average black community. As such, feelings of anxiety and confusion have have been the present norm.

Marginalized communities, including racialized individuals, immigrants, and those with lower income or education levels are at higher risk for COVID-19. Statistics reveal that racialized populations account for over 50 per cent of COVID-19 cases.

The rate of COVID-19 cases for Latin American, Arab, Middle Eastern, and West Asian populations was found to be nine times higher, and the rate for Black populations six times higher, than white populations.

As such, many of the healing practices of Indigenous peoples were uppressed and ignored.

This history of colonization has not only led to barriers in the health care available to Indigenous communities, but also deficiencies in their social determinants of health.Addressing the social determinants of health in both short and long terms will require the decolonizing of health care at individual, organizational and policy levels.





By: Tayo Mustapha



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Under The Shadow Of Covid-19

~ **Faisal Rana** // Labour Councillor - Rochdale Borough Council

It is the African and Asian continents recording some of the highest rates of infections and deaths. In Africa the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa, Morocco, Egypt, Ethiopia and Nigeria. In Asia, the five countries reporting most cases are India, Iran, Iraq, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia.

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And as we are all, quite naturally, concerned about a second wave of infections affecting our local streets and our own neighbourhoods; it is black and asian people who are suffering the brunt of this global pandemic, a fact that rarely appears on our news bulletins

And another fact rarely reported is that here in the United Kingdom, it is the BAME community that has been disproportionately affected by the virus.

Research by University College London scientists found that people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities in the UK are two to three times more likely to die from Coronavirus , despite the fact that most minority groups are relatively younger overall compared to the white population. The Office of National Statistics reported that black

people are four timesmore likely to die from the virus than white people. A third of people occupying critical care beds have been non white patients.

The pandemic has exposed just how devastating inequalities have been for the BAME community.

Asian and black people are six times more likely than the general population to have type two diabetes, putting them at a higher risk of serious health complications, according to Diabetes UK. Genetics and differences in lifestyles are believed to be the major cause of the increased risk. Complications arising from diabetes include cardiovascular disease and kidney damage. Diabetes and heart disease have been identified as being a significant risk in dying from the virus.

Vitamin D is essential for healthy immune systems to fight off infections and viruses. Dr David Grimes, a consultant physician in Blackburn, has undertaken 30 years of research into Vitamin D deficiency in the local BAME population. It takes six times longer for a dark skinned person to absorb sufficient levels of Vitamin D from sunlight than it does for a white person. Scientists have found that Vitamin D helps regulate the sometimes fatal inflammatory response caused by the virus.

One in five people working in the NHS in England is from an ethnic minority background yet two thirdsof NHS staff deaths attributed to Covid-19 were black or Asian. Minority ethnic staff are over-represented in public-facing, low pay jobs in hospitals and have greater exposure to infected patients (Healthcare assistants, porters, cleaners, etc.) The same is for public transport, the taxi industry and retail sector; which all have a significant number of BAME employees and who are at a greater risk of exposure to the virus.

Twice as many people from deprived communities have died from the virus. Government statistics show that people from ethnic minority groups are more likely than white British people to live in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England. In my home town of Rochdale, as in many parts of the country, Asian communities occupy areas of the poorest housing and live in the most overcrowded conditions and have least access to open spaces. Self isolation and effective social distancing is almost impossible in these circumstances. Long-term health inequalities and poor access to health services faced by Asian communities have also been a contributory factor in increased fatalities linked to the virus.

Issues with self isolation in larger households are likely to be a factor in the greater spread of COVID-19 among the minority ethnic population. The multi-generational occupancy of many BAME households has put older people at greater risk of contracting the virus.

The reasons for the higher death rate from Coronavius among the black and Asian community are obviously complex. However, the increased health risks among BAME people, combined with increased levels of deprivation, low-income occupations and poor housing conditions has proved to be a deadly cocktail for ethic minority communities.



Despite the government and its scientific advisors being aware of the significant risk faced by BAME workers who are over-represented in employment sectors and with an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19; such as health, public transport and retail industries; no specific measures were taken to shield them from exposure to the virus.

There has been a failure of the government to provide adequate public information about the higher risk posed by the virus to the BAME population. Indeed it has largely been left to minority communities themselves to disseminate critical information about keeping safe during the pandemic. I was so concerned about the delay in providing translations of essential advice; I personally distributed a bilingual leaflet in English and Urdu to my 8,000 constituents.

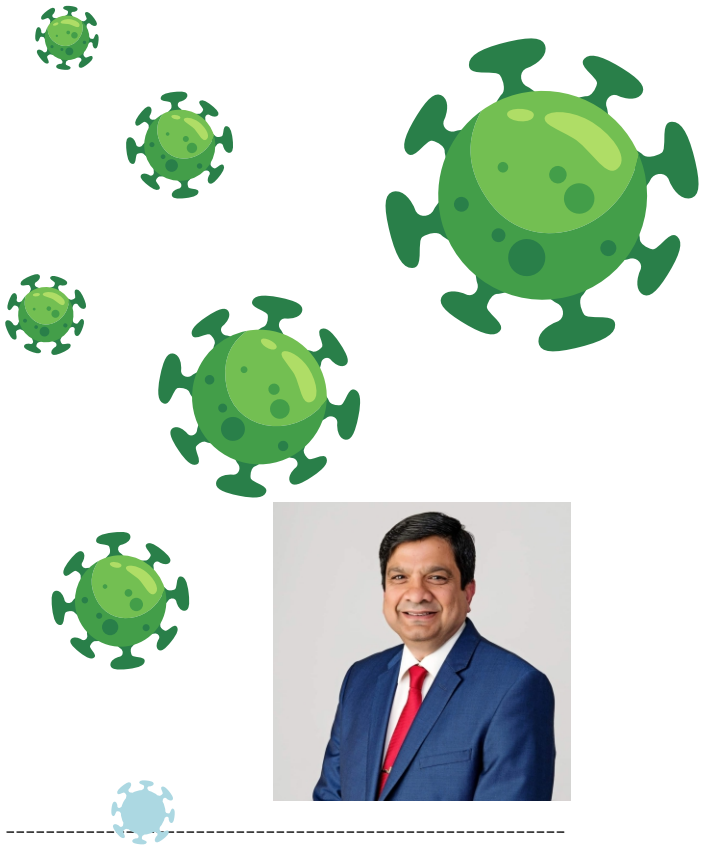
Inequalities are likely to continue beyond the immediate health crisis. The decision to cancel school exams and rely on predicted grades based on teacher assessments of past performance will have a negative impact on grades awarded to BAME students. Research has shown that BAME students frequently outperform grade scores predicted by their teachers. This will have a negative impact on future opportunities and social mobility for many young people from minority ethnic communities.

A decade of austerity cuts to public services has had a disproportionate impact on already deprived communities, of which the BAME population is a significant element. It has led to higher levels of unemployment and poverty, worsening housing conditions and poorer health. Access to public services has worsened and health inequality has become more deep-rooted.

The pandemic has exposed just how devastating these inequalities have been for the BAME community.

The Bank of England is already speculating on the level of public spending cuts that will be required to pay for the cost of fighting the COVID-19. We must not allow the poorest and most vulnerable in society to once again pay the heaviest price. As we have already seen, for many in our minority communities, they have already paid with their lives.

Hopefully, I will live long enough to see how in future Black History Month records just how this pandemic devastated the world's BAME population.



Faisal Rana

Labour Councillor - Rochdale Borough Council

Rochdale has become home to many different people over time. It is such a special place that many people want to live here: members of the Polish forces and European Volunteer Workers came in the 1940's; SE Asian textile workers came in the 1950s and 60s; more recently, this century, we have welcomed Eastern European and African people, especially Nigerian people.

What do they have in common? They are all people; they are part of our Community; they bring their own culture and identity to add to the great place that is Rochdale Borough.

When I became a Councillor in 2014 I had no idea that in 6 years' time I would have met so many wonderful people, become a Cabinet Member and be a part of a more vibrant Community.

I want to be the kind of person who makes a difference. I strive for equality, I celebrate diversity, I promote the idea of One Community, One Borough, a place where everyone can live and prosper, Our Rochdale!

The last few months have been difficult for everyone but one of the positive things that has come out of the pandemic is the mutual help and co-operation in our Community. We celebrate our differences, share our experiences, learn from each other and, through that learning, understand each other. We provide support for the vulnerable members of our Community. By working together we strengthen our world and make a better future for our children.

I love Rochdale!

Councillor Janet Emsley
Cabinet member for a Safer and Inclusive Community

Councillor Janet Emsley





FESTAC '77

Festival of Arts & Culture Lagos, Nigeria



Festac '77, also known as the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture (the first was in Dakar, 1966), was a major international festival held in Lagos, Nigeria, from 15 January 1977 to 12 February 1977. The month-long event celebrated African culture and showcased to the world African music, fine art, literature, drama, dance and religion. About 16,000 participants, representing 56 African nations and countries of the African Diaspora, performed at the event. Artists who performed at the festival included Stevie Wonder from United States, Gilberto Gil from Brazil, Bembeya Jazz National from Guinea, Mighty Sparrow from Trinidad and Tobago, Les Ballets Africains, South African Miriam Makeba, and Franco Luambo Makiadi. At the time it was held, it was the largest pan-African gathering to ever take place.

The official emblem of the festival was a replica crafted by Erhabor Emokpae of the royal ivory mask of Benin. The hosting of the festival led to the establishment of the Nigerian National Council of Arts and Culture, Festac Village and the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos. Most of the events were held in four main venues: the National Theatre, National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos City Hall and Tafawa Balewa Square.

The World Festival of Black Arts (French: Festival Mondial des Arts Nègres), also known as FESMAN, is a month-long culture and arts festival that takes place in Africa. The festival features poetry, sculpture, painting, music, cinema, theatre, fashion, architecture, design and dance from artists and performers from around the African Diaspora.

History

Dakar, 1966

The First World Festival of Black Arts or World Festival of Negro Arts was held in Dakar, Senegal, 1–24 April 1966, initiated by former President Leopold Senghor, under the auspices of UNESCO, with the participation of 45 African, European, Caribbean, and North and South African countries, and featuring black literature, music, theater, visual arts, film and dance. It was first state-sponsored festival to showcase the work of African and African diasporic artists, musicians and writers to a global audience. Participants included historian Cheikh Anta Diop; dancers Arthur Mitchell and Alvin Ailey; Mestre Pastinha, a Capoeira troupe from Bahia; Duke Ellington; Marion Williams; singers Julie Akofa Akoussah and Bella Bellow; writers Aimé Césaire, Langston Hughes, Wole Soyinka, Amiri Baraka, and Sarah Webster Fabio.

Lagos, 1977 - FESTAC 77

In 1977, from 15 January to 12 February, the Second World Festival of Black Arts or Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture — known as FESTAC '77 — took place in Lagos, Nigeria, under the patronage of President Olusegun Obasanjo. Attended by more than 17,000 participants from over 50 countries, it was the largest cultural event ever held on the African continent. Among artists who took part were Stevie Wonder, the Sun Ra Arkestra, and Donald Byrd from the US, Tabu Ley and Franco from the Congo, Gilberto Gil from Brazil, Bembeya Jazz National from Guinea, and Louis Moholo, Dudu Pukwana, and Miriam Makeba from South Africa.



FESMAN

The World BLACK ARTS

Dakar, 2010

The 2010 World Festival of Black Arts took place 10–31 December 2010, and was initiated by Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade with the theme of African Renaissance. In President Wade's 2009 address at the UN, he said: "I call all Africans, all the sons and daughters of the Diaspora, all my fellow citizens, all the partners that are ready to walk by our side, all States, all international organizations, foundations, firms, etc. for a shining success for this Festival, and for the rise of a new Africa." It was curated by Kwame Kwei-Armah, and participants at the opening ceremony included Youssou N'Dour, Baaba Maal, Angélique Kidjo, Toumani Diabaté, Wyclef Jean, Euzhan Palcy, Carlinhos Brown and the Mahotella Queens. As well as music and cinema, the festival featured art exhibitions, theatre and dance performances, fashion shows, photography and other events, with the participation of artists and intellectuals from dozens of African and African diaspora countries, including the US, Brazil, Haiti, France and Cuba.



Claudia Jones

To her people...a true hero

Claudia Jones, feminist, black nationalist, political activist, community leader, communist and journalist, has been described as the mother of the Notting Hill carnival. The diversity of her political affiliations clearly illustrated her multifaceted approach to the struggle for equal rights in the 20th century.

She was born in Belmont, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad in 1915 and at the age of eight moved to Harlem, New York with her parents and three sisters. Her education was cut short by Tuberculosis and the damage to her lungs as well as severe heart disease plagued Claudia for the rest of her life.

For over 30 years she lived in New York and during this time became an active member of the American Communist party, an organisation in which her journalistic and community leadership skills were maximised. By 1948 she had become the editor of Negro Affairs for the party's paper the Daily Worker and had evolved into an accomplished speaker on human and civil rights.

In 1955 she was deported from the US and given asylum in England, where she spent her remaining years working with London's African-Caribbean community. She founded and edited The West Indian Gazette which despite financial problems remained crucial in her fight for equal opportunities for black people.

Claudia Jones lasting legacy is undoubtedly the Notting Hill carnival, which she helped launch in 1959 as an annual showcase for Caribbean talent. These early celebrations were held in halls and were epitomised by the slogan, 'A people's art is the genesis of their freedom'.


NIGERIA
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
#BLACKLIVESMATTER #ALLLIVESMATTER
#LOVEMATTERS #PRAYERMATTERS
#COMMUNITYMATTERS
#WESTANDTOGETHERROCHDALE
#GREATERMANCHESTER
BLACK LIVES MATTER



Peace Activist;

PROF DR. ERINMA BELL

Dr Erinma Bell is a peace activist recognised for her work tackling gun crime in Moss Side and Longsight. Fourteen years ago Erinma and her husband Raymond witnessed a close friend being gunned down in front of them. Shocked by what they saw, they set up CARISMA (Community Alliance for Renewal, Inner South Manchester Area) to give young people positive alternatives to street and gun crime. At its peak in 2007/2008, gun crime in Greater Manchester reached a total of 146 shootings, many of which occurred in the Moss Side and Longsight areas of southern Manchester.

CARISMA has now become part of Chrysalis – a family support centre which helps migrant families. Erinma works as part of an inspirational network of community leaders and volunteers active across south Manchester, working towards a socially inclusive community.

Erinma has recently been honoured with a sculpture designed by Manchester-based artist Karen Lyons. The sculpture - a one and a half life-sized bust - is made out of 50 lethal firearms seized by police or surrendered during gun amnesty's. The weapons, after being made safe, were melted down by Manchester-based artists' collective 'Guns to Goods' and turned into the sculpture. It now takes pride of place inside Manchester town hall's sculpture hall - the first-ever sculpture of a woman in the building.

Mum of eight, Erinma, who grew up in Moss Side, has an honorary doctorate from the University of Salford and was awarded an MBE in 2010.

Erinma invited year 1 students Beckie and Eve to the Chrysalis Family Centre in Moss Side, her chosen location for the project photography. Erinma chatted with the girls and answered questions about her life and achievements.

Erinma with The 'Guns to Goods' sculpture (credit/GMP)





Mary B. A. Adekugbe

~ Founder/ Chairperson Nigeria Community Association, Rochdale
~ Founder/ CEO Beej's Heritage, Foundation ~ Director @ Beej's Venture Limited
~ Hate Crime Ambassador ~ Community Activist ~ Traditional Music and Dance Coach
~ Youth Mentor ~Lover Of Humanity

My father (Late Samuel Olaomo Fadahunsi) taught me the lesson of life, on how to stand and face all challenges with the brave spirit of getting up again, always reminding myself of my real worth as a proud Black African Nigerian woman living in Rochdale. To always stand tall against all odds.

You will never do enough to satisfy anyone who is bent on misunderstanding you, so don't bother, just do your best and leave the rest.

Black History month offers moments to celebrate the past. However, the observance also provides an opportunity to recall the destruction of an era whose effects are still with us today.

The month honours African-Caribbean people's rich range of experiences, struggles and achievements throughout history and into the modern day.

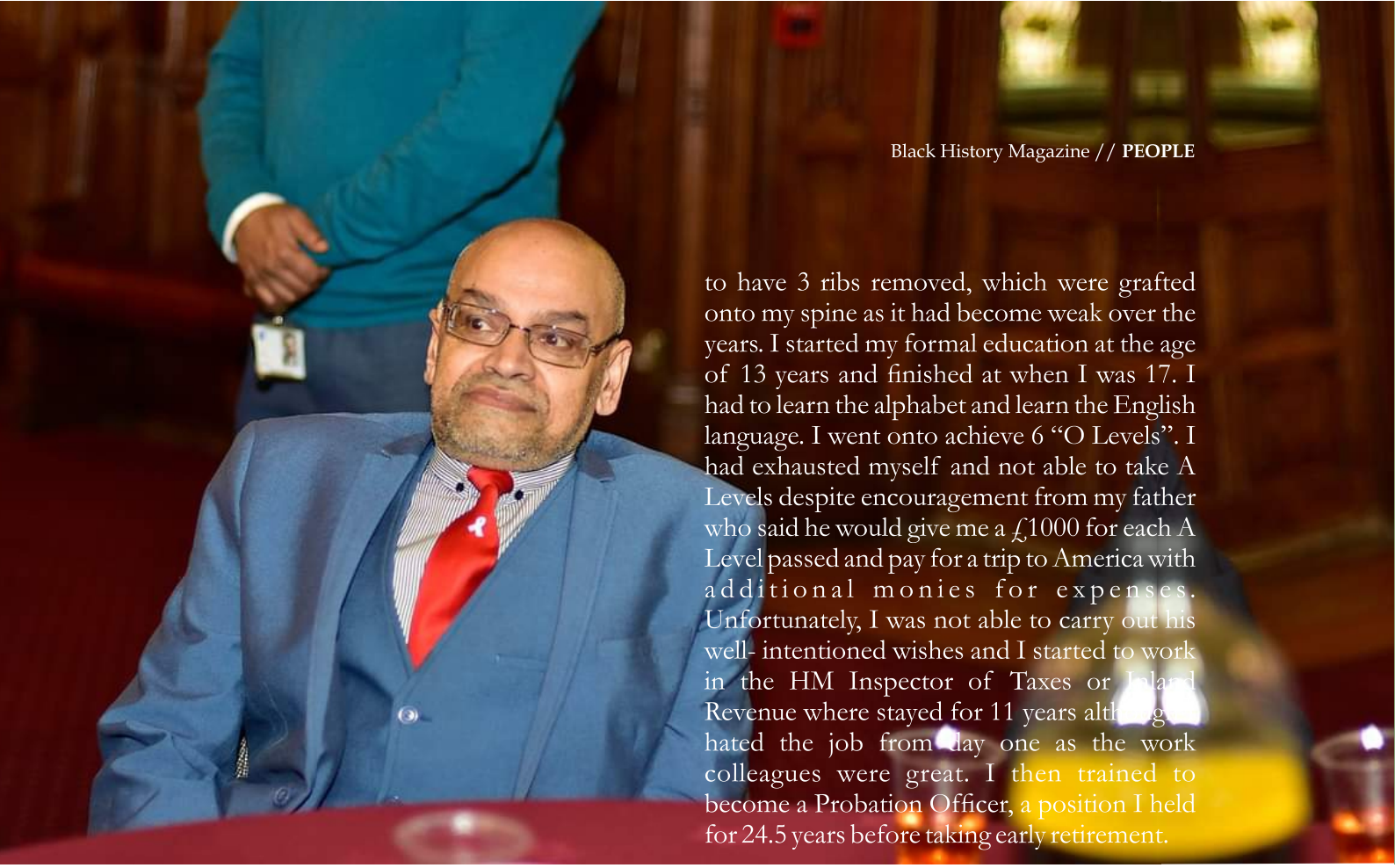
I have been lucky in my life and career as the First African Black woman to organise raising of the Nigeria flag in Rochdale Borough Council at the Rochdale Town hall in 2019. History made!

I have a loving family who have always encouraged me, mentors, friends, colleagues and bosses at work, who have given me opportunities and helped me succeed.

On this historic month, I want to invite everyone to join in celebrating the history of the black race, everywhere in the world.

Thank You

Our highest gratitude and appreciation to all our partners, sponsors, volunteers, individuals and organisations that supported our good cause, we are so grateful for all your wonderful contributions.



to have 3 ribs removed, which were grafted onto my spine as it had become weak over the years. I started my formal education at the age of 13 years and finished at when I was 17. I had to learn the alphabet and learn the English language. I went onto achieve 6 "O Levels". I had exhausted myself and not able to take A Levels despite encouragement from my father who said he would give me a £1000 for each A Level passed and pay for a trip to America with additional monies for expenses. Unfortunately, I was not able to carry out his well- intentioned wishes and I started to work in the HM Inspector of Taxes or Inland Revenue where stayed for 11 years although I hated the job from day one as the work colleagues were great. I then trained to become a Probation Officer, a position I held for 24.5 years before taking early retirement.

Councillor Sultan Ali

Was born on 14 May 1956 in Sahiwal, a district town in the Punjab region of Pakistan and has been Rochdale's twin-town since 1989. Due to poverty my father came to the United Kingdom in 1958 and we did not see him until November 1966. I and my two brothers and a sister were raised by our mother. I contracted spinal tuberculosis at the age of 4 years but it was not diagnosed and it caused a curvature of my spine and I did not grow for 8 years. To help with providing food and clothing for the family I worked as a shepherd boy herding sheep and goats for my uncle, leading a harsh and dangerous life until we were asked to join my father in England in 1966. Had no recollection of our father and my mother had not seen him for 8 years. I had not attended school in Pakistan and my diagnosis and treatment started for the TB on my arrival in the UK. Involved high dosage of medication and three major operations and inpatient stay for 10 months in a plaster cast – 5 months on my front and 5 months on my back and I had

I am a qualified Youth and Community worker and did this job on a part time basis for 10 years until I became and elected Councillor in 1996. Then I have held numerous positions in the Council including Chairman of a number of committees, a Cabinet member responsible for the Community Cohesion, Policing and Housing Portfolio. The highlight of my political career has to be when I became the Mayor of the Borough of Rochdale. Usually people put off being the Mayor until they are nearing the end of their political life but I was lucky to be Mayor in 20003. During my inaugural speech, without causing offence to any, past, current or future mayors, I boasted that "not only am I the first Asian Muslim Mayor of Rochdale but I am also the youngest, smallest and prettiest Mayor!!" this brought a huge laughter from the packed audience in the Grand Hall. I continue to be a councillor and live in Rochdale with my family. Moral of the story is that set yourself high goals and work hard to achieve them but never give up. Love and affection to all. Sultan



General Murtala Muhammed

Most people aren't aware of the fact that the N20 note is the only Nigerian currency that features a military man - General Murtala Mohammed (1938-1976).



The man on the N20 note was originally from the South-South of Nigeria; Aviele, a neighbouring town to Auchi in Etsako-West local government area of Edo State but he was born in Kano as Murtala Rufai Muhammed and changed names from Rufai to Ramat (his mother's name) when he became Head of State in July 1975.

Muhammed also attended the Regular Officers Special Training School in Teshie, Ghana, where one of his instructors in military tactics and military law was Emeka Ojukwu.

Late General Murtala Ramat Muhammed was born in the ancient city of Kano, Nigeria on 8 November 1938. He zealously pursued his academics and showed a strong sense of value for discipline, responsibility and teamwork.

Thereafter, General Muhammed, a graduate of the prestigious Sandhurst Academy in the UK enlisted into the Nigerian Army and is today still celebrated as a legendary visionary, eminent soldier and a great patriot. His dedication to his country and his people is still celebrated and recognized today, both in Nigeria and internationally. On top of his professional success and international recognition General Muhammed was and is beloved husband and a father.

He initiated many changes during his brief time in office: he began the process of moving the federal capital to Abuja, addressed the issue of government inefficiency, and, most important, initiated the process for a return to civilian rule. He was assassinated in February 1976 during an unsuccessful coup attempt, and his top aide, Lieut. Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, became head of the government.

His legacy of professionalism, dedication, honor and hard work lives on in his works and through his children and many grandchildren.



Segun ODEGBAMI

Considered one of the greatest football players to have ever emerged from Nigeria as well as the continent of Africa, Segun Odegbami is unarguably a household name for football lovers around the globe in the early 70s and late 80s.

Patrick Olusegun Odegbami was born on the 27th of August 1952 in Lagos but grew up in the Northern City of Jos, Plateau state. Segun Odegbami began his football career in 1970 at the IICC of Ibadan (now Shooting Stars) after he graduated from The Polytechnic of Ibadan where he studied engineering. His educational background coupled with his tactical style of play earned him the nickname "mathematical".

Segun Odegbami came into the spotlight in 1976 after helping his club, Shooting Stars, win the African Cup Winners' Cup thus making Shooting Stars the first Nigerian football club to claim a continental title. The 181cm tall right-wing forward was famous for his amazing skills, pace and scoring accuracy. His exploits with his football club earned him an invitation to the Green Eagles where he made his debut on the 16th of October, 1976 against Sierra Leone at the age of 24.

Coach Otto Gloria enlisted Segun Odegbami into the national team to represent Nigeria at the 1980 Nations Cup which was held in Nigeria. The tournament brought the legendary 'mathematical' his fame as he and a group of formidable players like Christian Chukwu, Adokie Amasieamka, Muda Lawal, Felix Owolabi amongst others won the country's first African Cup of Nations. Segun Odegbami became the joint top scorer in the tournament alongside Khalid Labied of Morroco with 3 goals each. The two goals Odegbami scored against Algeria in the final match of the 1980 African cup of Nations earned him the second position in the African footballer of the year award which was won by Cameron's Jean-Manga Ougene.

Segun Odegbami captained the Green Eagles at the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, and also led Nigeria through the African Nations cup qualifiers where they eventually lost to the revenge seeking Algeria in 1982. Segun Odegbami who is famous for his jaw-dropping skills and dazzling sprint on the right wing held the captain band 46 times and scored 23 goals during all i.e he scored an average of 1 goal in every two matches he played while being the captain. Odegbami retired from the national team on the 30th of October, 1982 but continued to play for his club (shooting stars) until 1984 when he brought his illustrious career to an end after losing the finals of African Champion Cup (Champions League) to Zamalek of Egypt.

Segun Odegbami remains one of the finest and greatest footballers that has ever represented Nigeria and Africa, and has since become a sports journalist and commentator after his retirement.

In 2015, Segun Odegbami made known to the world his intention of contesting for the seat of FIFA president but eventually withdrew as he could not secure the required backing to make him a contestant.



Deeplish Rochdale

We thank God for the Black History Month. It is really a privilege and with experience to talk about Black History in Rochdale, I remember when we first moved in to Rochdale, we were among the first Black people then, we went through a lot, some hoodlums coming for my boys, attacking them on their way to school. Eggs being broken in front of our house, setting our dust bin on fire.

We were well known to the community police because we always report them. Thank God they always come to our rescue. They're still a lot of racism's but with time we are moving forward. It is an achievement to have overcome a lot of challenges in Rochdale and also how we have contributed a lot to the development of Rochdale.

Thanks



Mrs Adenike Racheal Afolabi (Iya-Boyz)



DEREK Dawes

A Resident Of 40 Years In Rochdale

146-by-51 miles at it's widest points; Jamaica; Proud land of my birth on 29/1/53.

Dwarfed in size by hundreds of countries the world-over, yet truly a Global Superpower within its sphere of influence.

I welcome, that in redressing the balance of a history diluted by western-establishment, Black History Month promotes the inclusion of Black History amongst its rightful-place within the fabric of a shared past.

Black History, Our History, My Story, Of a Shared Future...

Eleven beautiful years, enveloped by the golden-yellow rays of the flag; green fertile lands, rich black earth.

Then suddenly, out of the (red, white &) blue, came an eleven-hour unaccompanied plane-journey.

My sweet, attentive and softly-spoken grandma, Scarabell Gayle was eleven thousand deafening miles-away, if I could-'somehow' traverse-back..

Back to my Friends; Back to the crystal-waters of my beach-yard, and the thrill of catching my-fill of spectacular dazzlingly-coloured fish. Back to 'Mista Davy' and him sour-face fi-de neighbourhood pickney-dem! Back to 'All'-things devoid of Homesickness. Back to 'My' Home.

Overnight; Like Red-Snapper outta-water; Cold, Grey, Strangers, Unfamiliar.. England. I swear 'Colour'-itself retreated in hue, as I imagine it did for my parents aboard the Infamous Empire Windrush two years prior.

The 'Mother-Country' of Empire called and they bravely answered. Opportunity to rebuild a Nation depleted by World War. And like so many others before of that Windrush-generation; rebuild family fractured oceans apart, behest of two years laying foundations in all-manner of labours

throughout the UK. Until finally; Seeds of new roots sown; my parents 'sent-for-me' to join them in 'England'.

Sacrifice, Strength, Love and Security; the bigger picture, for a better future..

Up to then; the faces of my young life were *All Black*. From the Postman to the Policeman, Teachers to my best-friends, and a million and one faces in between. From here-on; 'I' was the 'One'.

Adjusting to this new-life was incredibly tough.. ..Isolation, loneliness, ridicule, systemic overt racism, culture-shock; all obstacles and pushing through imposed barriers.

11-16 Years old through High School; a torrent of absolutely-horrendous daily-racism, infecting 'Every' school-structure (peers, their parents, teachers, dinner lady, caretaker, headteacher and capped-off by a curriculum devoid of Black-people's Existence (and or revoking any valid positivity or gravitas of historical acknowledgment)..

Outside the dungeon of "Schooling Ignorance"
Vile Societal Structures: neighbours, shop-keepers, doctors, police, politicians, workplaces, national front, vicars...a pale tidal wave of hate; with me, a boy-of-colour their focus, before benignly saying their daily prayers unfathomable of Gods All-knowing, and Me; the only, the 'One'..

Only God-knows; but I made it through Mirfield High School, Yorkshire. Held my head-high, kept-on keeping-on, thickened my skin of resilience & proceeded into the world of British Adulthood..

"Young, Gifted & Black" ~ Opportunist, Grounded and Ambitious.
Coupled with a natural curiosity for all-things mechanical, & a growing love of Cars, I sort to further my burgeoning skills with professional experience..

..'Magnet-In-Southers' Huddersfield - Perfect. 20 years absorbing and honing my skills with a reputable Automotive Company. No-doubt the shackles societal-prejudice pervade, but more and more 'colour' regained its **'hue'.**

Engines my pallet, vehicles my canvass, l listened, I learned, I voiced my opinion, I stayed humble and 'boy could I paint the sweetest Engine-notes!!'

Aged 35, I realised that the constant-commute to my increasingly serious long term relationship was unsustainable; It was time to upsticks again and resettle; **'Rebirth'**. This-time; like my parents before-me; plans encompassed something much bolder.

Just as my folks had tirelessly given back to 'their' Mother-Country and forged a better life for our family; l, through Youth-Work endeavoured in my own-way to do the same. Working "With" Schools the length and breadth of Littleborough, Rochdale, Oldham and Middleton. Youth Clubs in Deeplish and Springhill, Youth Enterprises & Ventures throughout the borough, l empowered young people to dream big, keep on the right track, interacted on their level without *patrony*, and imparted life skills my knowledge (vehicular or otherwise). *"The Youth of Today, are the Men of Tomorrow",* focus and homage to resilience, learnt the hard-way.

So now 'Tomorrow's-Man' set-about executing the Business of Today. The Business of owning my own..

I engaged in Business Enterprise Courses, embarked on an array of training & managerial-endeavours refining my business-acumin.

With Small Business Manager Qualification and Certification successfully gained in March of 1992; three months later; sheer determination and persistence had finally paid-off. My Initials above My Premises, colours of My-own hue; **DDAuto's Established** June of 1992.

Coming full-circle; Again; I alone was The-One.. the One & Only Black Owner/Manager

of an Automotive-Garage in Rochdale. I Was, and Remain; Extremely Proud.

The immediate-'Landscape' I struggled to reconcile as a British Youth of yester-year; today; my premises feature as an embedded landmark of the community.. (and in my humble opinion; celebrated for the 'Outstanding', rather than the 'Outcast') Achieved through; hard-work and determination, forging close community links, building a strong customer-focused word-of-mouth reputation whilst ultimately; offering a trusted quality of service, qualified to professionally get the job done the right way.

The Business has championed many apprenticeship over the years. from; school-leavers to work experience pupils, young upstarts keen to develop a taste for mechanical-engineering, youth club drop-in's and on occasion; isolated-souls needing a sense of purpose, direction, and belonging.

Every and all have encompassed the motivational-gaze of **"LittleManDreadlock"**; Ever present on the office-wall since inception. His words of wisdom cast-eternal: *"The Youth of Today, Are the Men of Tomorrow"*. True Is True, and a positive quote I've always valued to impart amongst those who have passed through these-doors, to help them on their-own journey, with best wishes for their future.

In Legacy to a thriving-business spanning some 28-plus years, it's fitting that one such student has remained ultra-dedicated & integral to the success of DDAuto's, excelling himself day-in day-out, year-in year-out.

Similarity of skill, passion, commitment, trust and quality of service are all key-attributes I recognised in my now wingman-employee and friend, **Karl Hurst,** at times like holding-up a mirror to myself, rendering hope for driving the garage forward for the foreseeable-future.
Keen to learn the-trade at a mere 14, adopted as a fully-fledged Apprentice at 16, and a beacon integral to 'Our' Service some19 years later. In Karl; I am proud to see (work with) living-proof of my concept manifested all those years ago; investing time and skill sets from youth to man...boy to pending boss.

Though tough, challenges may lay ahead in this Covid-Era; I'm more than confident that the brand name and time honoured garage reputation will be in great shape, as increasingly as I embark upon phasing-in a more hands-off and guidance-led approach to handing over the reigns..

Year 2020...
Happily married to my adoring wife Barbara since 2007. A family-man of successful well-adjusted adult children.. and (COVID - withstanding) the freedom to vacation in the belovéd land of my birth. Visit Grandma-Gayle's Old-Yard with friends. *Feel the Sun on my 'Back'*, Fish amongst the crystal-waters of my Youth.

...I Am Derek Dawes, Owner/Manager of DDAuto's residing Ramsey Street Rochdale. **'And I Am Home'**



People // Black History Magazine



Albert Jarrett

...an amazing gentleman who signed up to join the Royal Air Force in 1942.

Originally from Jamaica, Albert Jarrett, 96, signed up to join the RAF in 1942 on the island before travelling to the UK in 1943.

Joining at the age of 18 years old, Albert wanted to do his bit as part of the Commonwealth and move away from plans his father had put in place for him.

Training in Jamaica, Albert was soon on a ship bound for the UK, travelling via New York, and spending 23 days at sea on a packed ship until his arrival.

Serving in the UK

Based at Sutton Coldfield as part of the ground crew for RAF Spitfires, Albert struggled to acclimatise to the UK weather, but soon got into the swing of day-to-day life in the RAF – sleeping with his rifle each night just in case it was needed.

He was later moved to Bomber Command in Grantham, Lincolnshire.

When VE Day was announced Albert was in Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham.

"I was overwhelmed at the joy and celebrations going on around me!" "It was a great day and we celebrated and went along to the dancing halls to have fun – wonderful to be with so many relieved people!"

After he was demobilised in 1946 Albert went back to Jamaica but returned to the UK in 1953 as part of the Windrush generation.

"I had a duty to my home country, and it was a pleasure to serve as part of a greater commonwealth effort during the war. It was an experience that's for sure."

Post-war life

After the war Albert found work as a bus driver, got married and had a son. He is now married to his second wife, Shirley, with whom he lives with in Birmingham and has three grandchildren.



Flora Nwapa

Born Florence Awanzuruahu Nkiru Nwakuche-Nwapa on the 13th of January 1931, was a Nigerian author who is best known as the Mother of Modern African Literature.
Author of the internationally recognized 'Efuru', published in 1966.

Florence Nwanzuruahu Nkiru Nwapa (13 January 1931 – 16 October 1993), was the forerunner to a generation of African women writers, and was also acknowledged as the first African woman novelist to be published in the English language in Britain. She achieved international recognition, with her first novel Efuru, published in 1966 at the age of 30 years by Heinemann Educational Books. While never considering herself a feminist, she was best known for recreating life and traditions from an Igbo woman's viewpoint.

Nwapa is also known for her governmental work in reconstruction after the Biafran War, in particular, she worked with orphans and refugees who were displaced during the war. Furthermore, she published African literature and promoted women in African society.[3] She was one of the first African women publishers when she founded Tana Press in Nigeria in 1970.

Early years and education

Nwapa was born in Oguta, in south-eastern Nigeria, the eldest of the six children of Christopher Ijeoma and Martha Nwapa, a teacher of drama. Flora Nwapa attended school in Oguta, Secondary School at Elelenwa in Port Harcourt and Lagos. At the age of 22 years she entered the university in 1953 and earned a B.A degree at the age of 26 years from University College, Ibadan, in 1957. She then

went to Scotland, where she earned a Diploma in Education from Edinburgh University in 1958.

Family life
Flora Nwapa had three children Ejine Nzeribe, Uzoma Gogo Nwakuche and Amede Nzeribe. She was married to Chief Gogo Nwakuche.

Teaching and public service
After returning to Nigeria, Nwapa joined the Ministry of Education in Calabar as an Education Officer until 1959. She then took employment as a teacher at Queen's School in Enugu, where she taught English and geography from 1959 to 1962. She continued to work in both education and the civil service in several positions, including as Assistant Registrar, University of Lagos (1962–67). After the Nigerian civil war of 1967–70, she accepted cabinet office as Minister of Health and Social Welfare in East Central State (1970–71), and subsequently as Minister of Lands, Survey and Urban Development (1971–74). She was a visiting lecturer at Alvan Ikoku College of Education in Owerri, Nigeria. In 1989, she was appointed a visiting professor of creative writing at University of Maiduguri.

Writing and publishing
Nwapa's first book, Efuru, was published in 1966 at the age of 30 years and is considered a pioneering work as an English-language novel by an African woman writer. She sent the transcript to the famous Nigerian author Chinua Achebe in 1962, who replied with a very positive letter and even included money for the postage to mail the manuscript to the English publisher, Heinemann.

It was followed by the other novels such as *Idu* (1970), *Never Again* (1975), *One is Enough* (1981), and *Women are Different* (1986). She published two collections of stories – *This is Lagos* (1971) and *Wives at War* (1980) – and the volume of poems, *Cassava Song* and *Rice Song* (1986). She is also the author of several books for children.

At the beginning of Nwapa's literary career, as a result of the way feminism was viewed and the way it was portrayed, she had no interest in feminism because she felt it was prejudiced against men but she eventually came to terms with it. However, her struggle with feminism is representative of the present conversations about the movement in Africa and the world at large.

Her work was anthologised in publications ranging from Présence Africaine and Black Orpheus in the 1960s and '70s to Daughters of Africa in 1992.

Later years
Nwapa's career as an educator continued throughout her life and encompassed teaching at colleges and universities internationally, including at New York University, Trinity College, the University of Minnesota, the University of Michigan and the University of Ilorin. She said in an interview with Contemporary Authors, *"I have been writing for nearly thirty years. My interest has been on both the rural and the urban woman in her quest for survival in a fast-changing world dominated by men."*

Flora Nwapa died of pneumonia on 16 October 1993 at a hospital in Enugu, Nigeria, at the age of 62. Her final novel, The Lake Goddess, was posthumously published.

Story credit: wikipedia.org





Dr Peggy Mulongo

(PhD, MSc, DipHE, RMN, CMHP)

Dr Peggy Mulongo is a Lecturer in mental health nursing and practice at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan).

She is also a Cross-Cultural Mental Health Practitioner with 15 years' experience of working with Black and Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities in the UK. She is the co-founding member of NESTAC, a Refugee Community Organisation (RCO) which has been addressing the socio-cultural and wellbeing needs of the African population primarily but not exclusively in Greater Manchester since 2003.

Peggy is expert in delivering cross-cultural psycho-social therapy to refugees and asylum seekers from diverse ethnic background, especially women and young girls who have experienced mental distress relating to Violence Against Women and Girls, such as that associated with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Peggy is a national Lead UK FGM Consultant and an active Campaigner.

She initiated the FGM Programme Support our Sisters (SOS), a BJM Award-Winner 2015; the Guardian Project in 2016 (standardised within the ten local authorities across Greater Manchester) to support children and young girls victims or at risk of FGM;

More recently in May 2020, in light of the COVID-19 breakdown, Dr Mulongo launched the 'Ear for You' Project, a regional therapeutic helpline to support the emotional needs of the BAME population severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Peggy holds a Master of Science in Advanced Nursing Studies with a focus on mental health and culture.

She also holds a PhD in the same field from the University of Salford.

She is the Head of health and wellbeing programme at NESTAC Charity.

Meet Gbolahan Suraju Akinbode (GSA)



GSA is a thoroughbred Nigerian commercial development expert. He was born in Birin Kebbi; Went to schools in Ibadan, Mubi, Lagos and Maidenhead, England. He has held frontline commercial development roles in some of the finest FMCG multinational companies in Nigeria - working in the West, East, North Central, North West and North East Nigeria.

GSA's career, in Nigeria took him through the following companies: Lipton Nigeria Limited (a subsidiary company of Unilever Nigeria), Flour Mills of Nigeria PLC, Johnson Wax Nigeria, International Beer & Beverage Industries, Kaduna, Cadbury Nigeria PLC, Food Concepts PLC and Globacom Nigeria.

On this journey, GSA built a formidable commercial development and management experience which he carried with him to the UK (in 2007) where together with his dear wife (Olubunmi) he started Gbolates Global Resources, a company which imports branded foods, staples and drinks from Nigeria and distributes these Nigerian brands through a network of three hundred and fifty wholesale and high street retail customers in England, Wales, Northern Island and Scotland. Through this business GSA and Olubunmi have helped to promote Nigerian made branded foods, drinks and staples to consumers right across the United Kingdom. Olubunmi is Managing Director of this business today.

In parallel to this commercial development effort, GSA also took up project management responsibilities in the UK working for some of the UK's brightest information technology and telecommunications companies - IT@Spectrum, Spike Digital and Datalink Limited.

In 2002, GSA was rewarded with Cadbury Nigeria Award for Excellence which was the highest single most important award to any individual who has had the greatest individual contribution to shareholder value at Cadbury.

GSA had been motivator and driving force for many commercial development projects which impacted the fortunes of companies where he worked with consumers and customers who benefitted from their commercial output. A few, listed below had significant contributions to consumer and shareholder value:

Project Tiger at Cadbury Nigeria, Vitaminized Bournvita Project, Birth of Richoco food drink, Salesforce Restructuring at Cadbury Nigeria, Gbolates Global trade expansion and growth in the UK, 3G telecommunications development in East and North East Nigeria, Digital platform upgrade work in the UK, Route to Market (RTM) redefinition at Cadbury Nigeria and the Kronenbourg Lager Beer market expansion in Northern Nigeria.

GSA has a B.Sc. degree; An MBA degree; The Diploma of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, England and he is a Certified Scrum Master.

GSA is married to Olubunmi and he is an expert in large scale commercial development, business analysis, agile methodology and project management.



Black History Month

Change Maker

Today for #BlackHistoryMonth our Change Maker is award-winning Ghanaian-British architect Sir David Adjaye OBE.

Adjaye is known for designing many famous public buildings around the world, including the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC.

For Adjaye, architecture is about creating something new to serve the needs of everyone in the community.

This vision has earned him a knighthood and in 2021 he's in line for a RIBA Royal Gold Medal, one of the highest honours for his profession.

Sir David Adjaye OBE was illustrated by Kingsley
https://www.instagram.com/kingsleynebechi/





Beej's Venture





Beej's Ventures is your one-stop shop for high quality African & Caribbean Food groceries from around the world.

We stock up fresh foods and groceries for your shopping pleasure, and we have been the African Shop of choice for residents of Rochdale and its environs.



KERRY AMANDA EDWARDS

40 years old and has worked at Burnside Community Centre for the last 15 years.

Manager of the award-winning registered charity, Burnside Community Centre which is in Middleton.

Kerry was instrumental in the organisation receiving the national 'Trusted Charity' status by NCVO and has secured large amounts of national and regional funding for the organisation. Kerry is currently undertaking a MSc in Human Resource Management at Manchester Met University.

"I've been at Burnside Community Centre since 2005 and actually started as a volunteer The Manager at the time, Joan Aspinall really supported me to grow and develop. I think this has enabled me to fully appreciate the value of putting yourself 'out there', experience new things, trust others and to realise that it is OK to feel uncomfortable or vulnerable. It is honestly in such times where most of my personal growth as a person has taken place.

I think because of this experience, I can really relate to people who feel overwhelmed, lost, or out of place. I take real pride in being a Manager of a charity that's key objective is to provide a steppingstone to people, and one that is catered and centred on the individual. We are all on our own path and it's crucial to not only respect that but to invest and empower that sense of personal identity.

For me, the concepts of identity, self-empowerment and how these are intertwined into the wider black experience within the UK is a crucial on-going element; amplified this year by the global spotlight on Black Lives Matter movement.

Black History Month is a time to celebrate our collective experiences, our rich history, traditions, and culture while also confronting the more challenging aspects we face and tackle the social inequalities still prevalent. My paternal Grandfather who emigrated to the UK from Portland, Jamaica in the 1950's was a great driving force in my life and through him I have such pride in my black Jamaican heritage.

As a Manager and in a leadership position, I hope to always inspire others to know who they are, to be aware of the value and power they hold and provide a similar steppingstone onto greater things which I was so freely given by others in my time of need."



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Thursdays Bible Studies // 7:00pm-8:30 pm
Last Friday of the month Prayer Hour of Change // 11.00 pm-1:30 am.(Saturday morning)

Hope, *for this* Generation!

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DAME JOCELYN ANITA BARROW DBE

1929 - 2020



Dame Jocelyn Anita Barrow DBE was a British educator, community activist and politician, who was the Director for UK Development at Focus Consultancy Ltd. She was the first black woman to be a governor of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and was founder and Deputy Chair of the Broadcasting Standards Council.

In 1972, she was awarded the OBE for work in the field of education and community relations. In 1992, her work in broadcasting and her contribution to the work of the European Union as the UK member of the Economic and Social Committee was recognised by her being appointed DBE, the first black woman thus to be honoured as a "Dame".



OLIVE MORRIS

1952-1979

A true champion of civil rights, Morris campaigned for the rights of black people in South London and Manchester. Olive was also a founding member of such groups as the Organization of Women of African and Asian Descent (OWAAD) and the Brixton Black Women's Group.

MARY SEACOLE
1805 - 1881



Seacole was a pioneering nurse and heroine of the Crimean War, who as a woman of mixed race overcame a double prejudice.

Mary Jane Grant was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1805. Her father was a Scottish soldier, and her mother a Jamaican. Mary learned her nursing skills from her mother, who kept a boarding house for invalid soldiers. Although technically 'free', being of mixed race, Mary and her family had few civil rights - they could not vote, hold public office or enter the professions. In 1836, Mary married Edwin Seacole but the marriage was short-lived as he died in 1844.



DAVID ADETAYO OLUSOGA
1970 - Present

David Adetayo Olusoga OBE is a British historian, writer, broadcaster, presenter and film-maker. He is Professor of Public History at the University of Manchester.He has presented historical documentaries on the BBC and contributed to The One Show and The Guardian.

born in Lagos, Nigeria, to a Nigerian father and British mother, David Olusoga migrated to the UK at age five with his mother and grew up in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear. He attended the University of Liverpool to study the history of slavery.

KINGDAVID KAYODE

St Mary RC Primary School, Kingsway, Rochdale



Black history month is to show everyone what black people have achieved over the years. And to show that with faith and confidence we can achieve lots.

God has deposited an amazing gift, talent, skill in you. You have got to found it and make the most out of it. The sky should be your limit.



DIANE PITHER

Former Congo Beauty Queen & Trustee of The Kongo Kingdom Heritage UK Charity

OLABISI WILLIAMS

Teacher, Rochdale



My colour is my heritage and my heritage makes me proud. Am bold, beautiful and black!!!

I am Chisom Favor, being an African has been seen as a stigma till date , but those who know it's a privilege work towards Greatness with resilience, which comes only through understanding and a mind fixed on the Africa we all call home any day. I am bold to be one.



CHISOM FAVOUR

Bradford University

ARIKE CHANEL ALLI

Broadfield Primary School



We are not makers of history we are made by history.

JACOB OLAYODE

Profit Protection Officer, Kingsway, Rochdale



Africa is a place where you don't need to set a time alarm on your phone to wake up, because the cock crows early at dawn and in the night we see the beauty of the moon as it serenades you into night mode.

We have the Eve gene. No matter what they say or do we are mother of all race.



OLUWATOSIN LANLEHIN-SOTUBO

Founder/CEO Ark of Hope

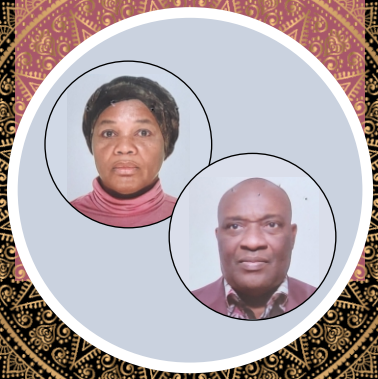
No one is you and that is your power
#Blackgirlmagic



TAYO EMMANUEL

Youth Leader, Nigeria Community Association

MR & MRS JOHN ASUKA
Littleborough, Rochdale



As Nigerians we are pillars wherever we find ourselves away from home building supporting and upholding others to stand.
We are Africans

PEACE SOLOMON
Student @ Bury College, Heywood.



I am an African, I am beautiful, I am intelligent, I am enough.
Society doesn't define me, the media does not tell me who I am. I come from overcomers, the true definition of strength and perseverance. Therefore I will accept nothing less than that for myself.

I am proud of being African because I know and feel that God Almighty made me in a special and unique way, just like Africa my nation.



CHIEMERIE DIVINE JOHN ASUKA
Falinge Park High School

Am a Nigerian African,We are very strong and determined people always at our best to conquer challenges and limits within and around us.
Though others tend to categorize us,We remain unbeatable.



CHIMDIEBUBE FAITH
Littleborough

RUMBIDZAI SAMUSHONGA

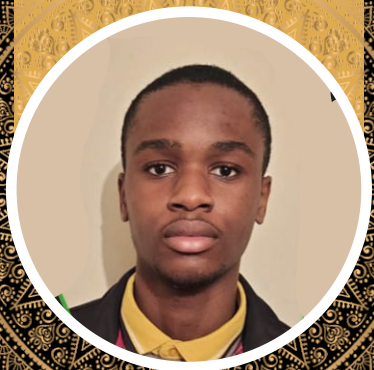
(Shalline Champlain)
Masters student in Mental Health/ Support Worker
~ Rochdale



To be Yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.
Don't be Afraid. Be Prayerful. Have Faith . Believe in Yourself and Never Give Up it's better to Try than to Regret not trying. Be hopeful and Be Empowered. In love with my culture and so Proud to be a black beautiful hard working African Woman.

CHUKWUKA DAVID JOHN AZUKA

Hopwood Hall College, Rochdale



Blessed and naturally sufficient as my country Nigeria, with its God-given virtues, diverse cultures and unique tongues and tribes.
Welcome to the home of hospitality

The best way to fight an alien and oppressive culture is to embrace your own.



PRAISE SOLOMON

Pupil at Harwood Park, Heywood

A people without knowledge os their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots



OLUSEYI SOLOMON

Missionary @ Christ Apostolic Church, Heywood

MUSA AMEDU

CEO Edo Diaspora UK, CEO Wise Choice Property Ltd.



There's something in YOU that is useful to the community you find yourself. The more you help people, the more you see yourself in them. It does not matter anymore the colour of your skin but the true desire to do good to one another is the ultimate goal we should strive for. If we stick to this as a principle, the impact of discrimination will not weigh us down.



SUNDAY ONABANJO

Minister Of Religion, CCC House Of Praise, Middleton

I was told that black represents devil with four horns on its head. I was told black soap signifies bad luck, I was told that black people can't think for themselves because they are created to serve.
It's now or never to realize that we have come a long way and work more harder to strategize even more and press further for change.
We are one family.

PRINCE OLUWASEYI JONES ADEKUGBE

Business Man, Central Rochdale



The only man I envy is the man who has not yet been to Africa - for he has so much to look forward to. Africa - you can see sunset and believe you have witnessed the hand of God.

When you leave Africa, as the plane lifts, you feel more than leaving a continent, you are leaving a state of mind.

Whatever awaits you at the other end of your journey will be of a different order of existence.



ELIZABETH ATEWOLOGUN *Heywood*

Black history month, is about celebrating the contribution and achievements of the black community. Showing appreciation and educating the wider community to highlight the fact that black people are an asset to the world.

My mother taught me to grab every opportunity with both hands and strive to do my best.

To all black people we have to go an extra mile to achieve our aim. Do not let anyone look down on us. Let us not use actions of others, to devalue our success ignore them and show them you can make it no matter what they say or do. We will take up space. Any failures we encounter means we should try and try again just do what you need to do to make it. We are hardworking people.

MRS ABIODUN OLAYINKA

CEO & Director, LET's Go Int'l & Forts Security Ltd. Rochdale



As part of our effort to build a better community in Rochdale, my husband I encouraged and supported the black community in Rochdale to vote in the previous council and general elections.

This led to the successful election of Simon Danczuk as the MP representing Rochdale.

ELVIS OBIANYI

Igwe of Rochdale



How do you convince the upcoming African generation that education is key to success, when we are surrounded by poor graduates and rich criminals?

Great leaders read daily. Not all readers are leaders, but all good leaders are readers.

BEDE DARLINGTON NNAMDI

Teacher, Kingsway



What made the owner the host become the customer and the guest.

How could Africa give out what they have and beg from the receiver to have it back?

PRINCE ABDUL GANITY MOMOH

Business Man, Rochdale



I can still remember growing up, my dad will advise me to think of impossibility whenever I think about possibilities, because the two are always tied together.

Same advice I give to my African brothers and sisters

DAMILOLA ODERINDE

St. Cuthbert RC High School Kingway, Rochdale.



To me black history month shows us black people how strong we are and how much we have overcome and not to be told how much we can achieve. Although racism is not yet abolished we have still come far away.

DAVID SOLOMON

Student at St. Cuthbert RC High School Heywood.



Be clothed in strength and dignity, and be proud of your heritage

Africa is the future and everybody knows.



JEMIMAH ADEKUGBE

St John's RC Primary School Rochdale

Our History should always teach us something on how we can help to mold a better future



ALLAN MANDINDI BANDA

British Army Veteran in Afghanistan. Malawi Heritage, UK

NIKE BADMUS

MC Honourable



"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent on our beauties. Black is beautiful"

JOSHUA ADEKUGBE

St John's RC Primary School Rochdale



I am Black and proud that Africa is my home

Equality on earth, brings peace to our hearts. No intimidation, no frustration. Let's play a fair game not race cards.



Councillor Mohammed Zaman

We must strive to be better and equal citizens of this borough, our different identities, cultures bond us together to shape our society and to be inclusive. We need to be the positive role models and in the power sharing and decision making positions and then and THEN only will we have real change.



MOHAMMED SHIRI SHERAZ

Community Leader Rochdale Army of Kindness.

OLUBUNMI SOLOMON

Health Care Assistant, Heywood.



For I am my mother's daughter and the drums of Africa still beat in my heart

FAVOUR SOLOMON

Student, Hopwood Hall College, Heywood.



Our heritage is an irreplaceable source of our inspiration, they are our touchstones, our point of reference and our identity.

Its high time for all black race to come together like Yin Yang, because in unity lies our strength.



JOSEPH ADEKUGBE

St Cuthbert RC High School, Rochdale

Ndi obodom Nigeria. I am Chizitara Gift, born Nigerian African, growing up to realize we are just specially chosen and made as God's people, and we need to let others know.



CHIZITARA GIFT

Littleborough Primary School, Rochdale

MARCUS RASHFORD, MBE

English professional footballer and philanthropist.



Marcus' support of FareShare has been transformational. Since March 2020, Marcus has:

Helped raise enough money to enable FareShare to distribute the equivalent of over 12.3 million meals for children and families who might not otherwise eat.

Raised awareness of child hunger in the UK, driving the issue to the top of the news agenda.

Launched and spearheaded the Child Food Poverty Taskforce, a group of more than 15 organisations that FareShare is a founding member of, which have come together to support the National Food Strategy and share real-time statistics and stories of those affected by child hunger in the UK.



EHINOR OTAIGBE-AMEDU

Founder/CEO Wonderfully Made Woman

Ehinor Otaigbe-Amedu's Wonderfully made Woman is a multi-award winning charity in England & Wales. Winner of Her Majesty, The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2020. The highest award any voluntary group can get in the UK, the MBE for voluntary service. She is also the director of Team Believe UK CIC.

"I have faced so many challenges but against all odds I am standing tall. As we celebrate Black History, I urge every black man or woman never to give up and also learn to support one another, knowing fully well that lighting the next person's candle does not make yours go off.

Working together is a quicker way to move forward. The key top success is sincerity in its entirety.

MARY OLANREWAJU

Nee Kaka Bakry
Foundaer, Equal Education Chances (EEC)



African I am...
Our ethnicity is our identity.
African I am...
Our hair, our body and our strength
African I am...our place of birth or where we reside cannot define us.
African I am...No one can write or teah our history like we do.
African I am...We will not ignore our history because we have a past and a future.
African I am...our root, the soil that blesses the eaerth.
African I am...



HILARIA ASUMU

NHSBT Ambassador

Africans need to start thinking outside of the box for success. We must stop waiting for the crumbs off our colonialist 'masters' tables and look inwards for inspiration.

Our leaders need to work with Africa's children in the diaspora. Let us build ourselves and our countries and encourage Africa's children to return home.

East or West, home is the best.



Our Rochdale

About Rochdale

This former engine house of the Industrial Revolution was once one of Britain's wealthiest towns and an important trading post for the country's wool merchants. It boasts one of the finest town halls in the country and is the place where the worldwide Co-operative movement was born.

Steeped in history and heritage, and surrounded by majestic countryside and wild open spaces, Rochdale is one of the biggest and most important towns in the UK.

History of Rochdale

Rochdale's history can be traced right back to the Doomsday Book in 1086, named as 'Recedam Manor', changing to 'Rachedale' and then eventually 'Rochdale'. In 1251 Rochdale was granted the Royal Charter.

In the heart of the borough, with a proud history as the birthplace of the Co-operative Movement, Rochdale town centre has a rich heritage. The beautiful 19th century Town Hall remains the jewel in Rochdale's crown and the town's fascinating history can be explored at Touchstones Rochdale museum, art gallery and cafe.

Great days out in Rochdale

Rochdale Town Hall tours - Rochdale's fabulous Grade-I Victorian Gothic town hall, designed by William Henry Crossland, is world renowned for its unique and detailed architecture. You can take an expertly guided tour of the Great Hall, Mayor's Parlour, former Magistrate's retiring room and police cells, marvelling at the wonderful craftsmanship and immerse yourself in the building's rich history. See when Rochdale Town Hall tours are

happening and how to book.

Healey Dell Nature Reserve and Tea Rooms - a beauty spot, nature reserve and wildlife sanctuary rich in industrial archaeology just 2 miles from Rochdale town centre. The River Spodden has carved its way through the woodlands down thousands of years, creating delightful scenery and spectacular waterfalls which once powered ancient corn, wool and cotton mills. This disused 1800s railway line is now a nature trail with magnificent views from a 100 foot high viaduct. The Healey Dell Heritage Centre offers a unique experience with its Victorian themed tea rooms with English cream teas served in vintage bone-china. The centre offers a permanent exhibition featuring a pictorial history of the dell. There is also a Fairy Grotto where children can meet the Healey Dell Fairy Godmother and so much more. Find out how to get to Healey Dell Nature Reserve and Tea Rooms, opening times and more.

Touchstones Rochdale museum, art gallery and cafe - this free-to-enter building in the heart of the town includes changing displays of Rochdale's impressive museum collections, activities and events for all ages, expert help to research your family history and the highest quality contemporary art programmes. Whether you're popping in for a brew and slice of cake, or to learn more about Rochdale borough's rich heritage, Touchstones Rochdale offers something for everyone. Find out how to get to Touchstones Rochdale museum, art gallery and cafe, opening times and more.

Rochdale Pioneers Museum - the birthplace of the modern co-operative movement, where, on 21 December 1844 the Rochdale Equitable Pioneer Society opened their store selling pure food at fair prices and honest weights and measures. The business revolution that started right here in Rochdale, now involves a billion co-operators as members of 1.4 million co-operative societies across the world. The fascinating museum, quality assured by Visit Britain, features the original store and tells the story of the ideals and principles of the co-operative movement. Find out how to get to the Rochdale Pioneers Museum, opening times and more

Broadfield Park - Rochdale's town centre park, the oldest in the borough, is of great historic interest and contains the statue of John Bright MP. Find out more about Broadfield Park's facilities and how to get there





Rochdale Pioneers Museum – Rochdale, England

Rochdale Hornets - Rochdale Hornets are a professional rugby league club from Rochdale, Greater Manchester, England, competing in the Championship, the second tier of European rugby league.

Blue and Purple Plaque trails - discover Rochdale's fascinating history on foot and discover fantastic local stories.

Blue plaque walk around Rochdale town centre - this walk will take you on a journey to discover the rich cultural history of Rochdale town centre. From the Old Duke of Wellington Hotel to the Gothic marvel of the Town Hall, you'll get chance to discover the rich history and influential people behind Rochdale.

Purple plaque walk - this walk will take you around Rochdale and allows you to visit every one of the purple plaques to learn more about the life of Dame Gracie Fields.



Broadfield Park, Rochdale



Councillor Billy Sheerin Billy
Mayor - Rochdale Borough Council

River Roch - The River Roch is a tributory of the River Irwell. It rises on the moors south of Todmorden and flows through Littleborough on its way to Rochdale. It passes straight through town centre in the vicinity of the new transport interchange where it flows below Smith Street.

It provides a serene setting in the middle of the town centre following our Revealing the Roch regeneration project.

More things to do in Rochdale

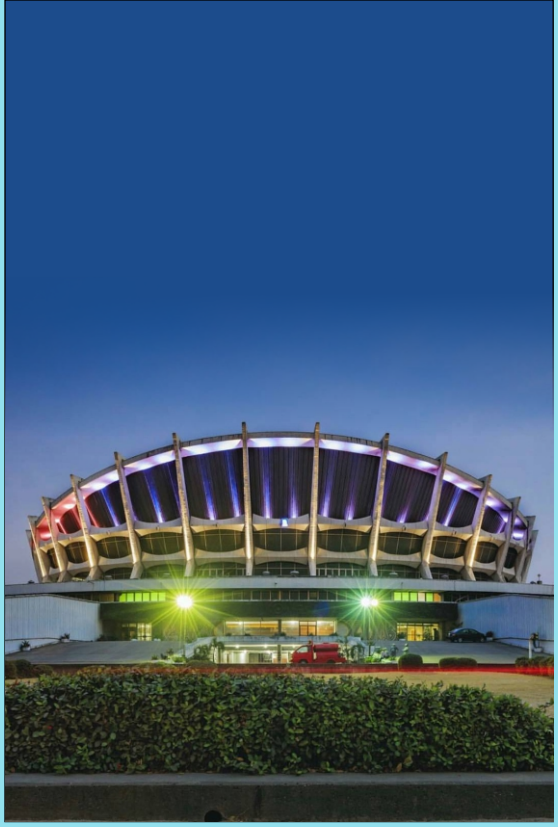
There are lots of activities and places to visit in Rochdale.



Beej's Heritage Foundation

Dedicated to promote the Arts, Culture and Heritage of Africa in adding values to Refugees/Asylum seekers, Women and Girls and Youth Empowerment programmes through community projects.

01706341673
/BEEJ'S HERITAGE FOUNDATION
@BeejsHeritage
beejsheritagefoundation@btinternet.com



The National Art Theater

Iganmu, Lagos

The National Art Theatre is one of the historical tour destination in Lagos. It is an ideal tourist destination for Private and Group tours. It is educative for the children and it is a place of history and an architectural master piece.

Constructed in 1976, National Arts Theatre which hosted the Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) in 1977, is a multi-purpose national monument for the preservation, presentation and promotion of Nigerian arts and culture.

Located in Iganmu on the mainland area of Lagos, the theatre which was constructed during the military regime of Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, is the primary centre for performing arts in Nigeria. Its exterior is shaped like a military hat making it stands out as a landmark edifice within the city.

The building is termed "the culture house" which represents one of the most identifiable national symbols about Nigeria arts and culture at home and abroad.

The theatre which is about a half an hour drive from Lagos Island, is one of the best masterpieces of Nigeria and a major Lagos attractions with an auditorium that has the capacity to seat around 3,000 persons, and a conference hall that can accommodate around 800 people. The hall is equipped with facilities for simultaneous translation of 8 languages.

The building also houses two cinema halls, a restaurant and a bar.



Tinubu Square

Tinubu Square, formerly Independence Square, is an open space landmark located at Broad Street, Lagos Island, Lagos State, Nigeria.

It used to be called Ita Tinubu in memory of Madam Efunroye Tinubu, a business magnate, before it was named Independence Square by leaders of the First Republic and subsequently Tinubu Square.

It was named after Madame Efunroye Osuntinubu Lumosa ©. 1810-1887), popularly known as Madame Tinubu or *Tinaboo* by the British.

Madam Tinubu was an outspoken and fearless, strong woman and a warrior from Egbaland in Abeokuta, present-day Ogun State.

In recognition of her bravery, she was honoured with the chieftaincy title of "Iyalode of Egbaland".

Tinubu was among those who helped Akintoye to get to the throne as Oba of Lagos. She fought against Dahomey when they were tormenting the Egbas and later left Lagos in 1856 during the reign of Dosunmu.

Madame Tinubu died in 1887 and was given a befitting burial by the Egbas.

After her death in 1887, Ita Tinubu was named after her.

The Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa-led federal government of Nigeria later transformed it into a beautiful landmark and tourist attraction.

Tinubu Square provides a flexible nexus of streets – Broad, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Ali, and Customs – on the island of Lagos, where various commercial activities take place.

Adjacent to the Square is the nation's former apex bank, the Central Bank of Nigeria, which is still heavily guarded by security forces; different business houses like banks, finance houses, insurance companies, goods distribution outfits and departmental stores.

Also present are churches, the central mosque, government offices, hospitals and sundry traders that line the various streets.

Tinubu Square, by 1890, was the heart of Lagos itself. It was the location of the first court of justice which was replaced in 1918 by the Supreme Court or the Court of the Assizes, which was a magnificent structure.

The Madame Tinubu Square today is iron-fenced with generous openings for tourists to behold the beautiful landscape. By the western strips is a beautiful inscription of the name 'Tinubu Square,' sitting on two iron rods backing the bigger fountain.

When one looks at it from the street, several skyscrapers housing various business interests in the Central Business District merged into the skyline.

Collections From Arts and Heritage Resource Centre Touchstones Rochdale.



by Jacob Epstein ~ *Made of bronze*

Bust of Paul Robeson, 1928

Paul Robeson was one of the most famous and controversial figures of his time. He is best known as a civil rights activist but was also an actor, singer and sportsman. He campaigned against segregation and lynching in America. He lived in Britain between 1927-39. Believing in equality for all he also fought for better pay and working conditions with the Welsh miners in the Rhondda valley during the 1930s and the mill workers of Manchester.

During the 1950s he was blacklisted on suspicion of being a Communist. His left-wing politics, combined with the colour of his skin, meant he was seen as a threat by the white American administration.

Portrait Head, Raimi 2010

This portrait of contemporary artist and writer Raimi Gbadamosi contrasts starkly with sculpted busts and statues of historical figures. These are often carved in marble, mounted on plinths, sometimes adorned with wigs and togas, and generally accompanied by an inscription describing the sitter's achievements. This head, cast in iron, is not embellished or explained. The rust patina suggests an archeological find and gives the head a timeless quality. Martin often includes historical and political references to colonialism and the slave trade in his work. As well as being a powerful portrait of an individual, the head appears symbolic – paying tribute to a long history of black lives and culture.

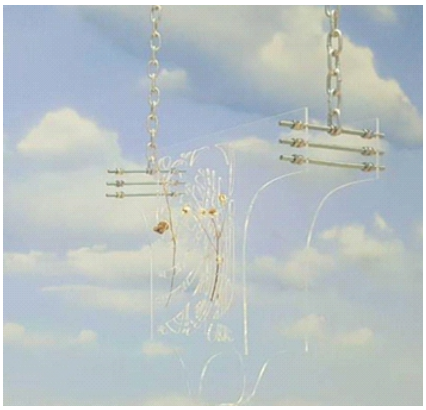


by Taslim Martin ~ *Made of cast iron with rust patination.*

4th Guimard Chastity Belt 2019

by Anthea Hamilton

Made of Perspex, steel fixings, chain, dried organic material.



Anthea Hamilton was shortlisted for the 2016 Turner Prize, and the following year was the first black woman to be awarded a commission to create a work for the Duveen Galleries at Tate Britain. She has become known for her strange and surreal artworks that are often the product of extensive research and combine (seemingly disparate) binary opposites.

'4th Guimard Chastity Belt' belongs to a series of works first exhibited in her show at the Sculpture Center in New York (later to be included in her Turner Prize presentation). Researching for the show in New York she came across a set of locks in the collection at the Metropolitan Museum while also reading about architect Hector Guimard, renowned for his Art Nouveau designs for the entrances to the Paris Metro. While deliberately open to interpretation, Hamilton's fusion of chastity belts (and their historical associations), with Guimard's famed iron works (of locks, constraint and obstruction) and dried organic flowers (natural versus 'man-made') could be read as a comment on female sexual subjugation.

Hamilton (as a leading black female artist working today), and this specific work with its strong feminist resonance, has clear relevance to our proud history and current strategy to support a new generation of female artists.

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