

Celebrating Black History Month

**Diversity is
powerful**

**Diversity is
creative**

**Diversity is
valued**



CW⁺

NHS
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
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What an opportunity we have to celebrate diversity in our hospital community!

Did you know we have 100 nations represented among our staff and 1 in 7 of our staff are Black Caribbean or Black African?



We look as far back as 1805 at a selection of notable Black men and women who made a significant contribution to society, their country and the world. Their impact is all the more remarkable given the times they lived.

Below we look at a range of contributions, but with an emphasis on nursing, medicine and the sciences.

Hope you learn something new today. Enjoy.

—**Gubby Ayida**

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
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Notable Black women and men through history

Dr Harold Moody
1882–1947

British Jamaican physician who campaigned against racial prejudice and established the League of Coloured Peoples in 1931 with the support of the Quakers



Elijah McCoy
1844–1929

Canadian-born American engineer whose inventions in lubrication revolutionised the railroad industry



Fanny Eaton
1835–1924

British Jamaican artist's model, domestic worker, seamstress and cook, known for her modelling work for the Pre-Raphaelites



John Archer
1863–1932

British politician, activist and former Mayor of Battersea—the first Black mayor in London—who was founding president of the African Progress Union



Princess Omo-Oba
Adenrele Ademola
1916–

Nigerian-born British nurse and African royal whose nursing career spanned 30 years, inspiring many across West Africa



Sislin Fay Allen
1939–

British Jamaican former nurse who became the first Black female police constable in 1968, serving in the Metropolitan Police



Lewis Latimer
1848–1928

American inventor and engineer who drafted patents for the incandescent lightbulb, telephone and railroad car toilet system



Mae Jemison
1956–

American engineer, physician and former NASA astronaut who became the first Black woman to travel into space as a mission specialist on *Endeavor*



Myra A Logan
1908-1977

American physician, surgeon and anatomist who was the first woman to perform open heart surgery



Rebecca L Crumpler
1831-1895

American physician and author who was the first Black woman to become a doctor of medicine in the United States and the only female physician author in the 19th century



Kamala Harris
1964-

American politician and attorney who is the 49th and current vice president of the United States



Katherine Johnson
1918-2020

American mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics at NASA were critical to the success of the first and subsequent US crewed spaceflights

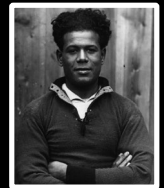
Mary Seacole
1805-1881

British Jamaican nurse, healer and businesswoman who treated the wounded on the battlefield during the Crimean War, considered the first nurse practitioner



Jack Leslie
1901-1988

British professional footballer and only Black player in England during his 14 seasons with Plymouth Argyle from 1921



Martin Luther King Jr
1929-1968

American minister and activist who became a spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement



Dame Kelly Holmes
1970-

British Olympic middle distance athlete and gold medalist, motivational speaker, author and British record-holder for 600, 800 and 1,000 metre distances

A timeline of key events in Black history

Source: The Guardian

1241

This earliest image of a black Briton was discovered in an abbreviated version of the *Domesday Book* used to collect taxes.

1562

John Hawkins is the first Englishman to lead a slave trading voyage from the west coast of Africa. Later Britain would become one of the biggest players in the Atlantic slave trade which led to the enforced transportation of 13 million Africans (according to recent estimates). There are now a number of exhibitions across the UK that detail the close connection between the growth of cities—such as London, Bristol and Liverpool—and the Atlantic slave trade.

1604

A play featuring a fully rounded black leading character, *Othello*, is performed for the first time. In some ways Shakespeare's portrayal of a black character was far superior to the often dehumanising representations of black people that were to follow in much European literature.

1623

The annexing of the island of St Kitts signals the beginning of British domination of much of the Caribbean. Many islands in the Caribbean changed hands during this period as European colonisers from France, England, Spain and elsewhere fought to control the islands.

1688

During the period that a constitutional monarchy is established in Britain, Aphra Behn publishes her novel *Oroonoko* about an African of royal blood. Apart from being one of the first known female writers in the English language, Aphra Behn is credited with producing one of the first attacks on the Atlantic slave trade.

1780

Sugar and slavery become synonymous. From North America to South America to the Caribbean to Australia, this commodity is grown using slavery or other forms of coerced labour. Sugar becomes England's dominant import from the mid-18th century to the 19th century. This, in turn, fuels the Atlantic slave trade which helps to build the international trade system with its complex web of insurance and credit.

1781

Captain Collingwood throws 132 sick Africans off the slave ship *Zong* in order to collect insurance money for them. This incident helps galvanise support for the movement against the Atlantic slave trade.

1787

The Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade introduces the political poster, the consumer boycott, the petition, the flyer, the political book tour, and investigative reporting designed to stir people to political action. It was a three-pronged movement: its parliamentary face, its agitational face on the streets of Britain, but, above all, the resistance of the enslaved Africans themselves.

1807

The British slave trade is abolished in parliament on 25 March by the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. However, many slave traders discover ways to circumvent the new law. And slavery itself remains legal.

1851

The Great Exhibition is held in Hyde Park in London. More than six million visitors view goods from Africa, India and the West Indies. It was here that jewels taken from an Indian protectorate are 'donated' to Queen Victoria. They become part of the crown jewels.

1863

Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation. Many free African Americans and runaway slaves join the Union armies in the ongoing American civil war. Slavery is formally abolished after the war ends, in 1865.

1864

Samuel Ajayi Crowther (from Nigeria) is the first African to be ordained a bishop by the Anglican church.

1865

After the American civil war, black people in the United States fight for and gain the right to vote and participate in political life. But over the next few years, after a sustained backlash including intimidation by the Ku Klux Klan, most African Americans lose the right to vote.

1913

John Richard Archer is elected as London's first black mayor, in Battersea. Allan Glaisyer Minns is thought to be Britain's first black mayor, elected in Thetford, Norfolk, in 1904.

1914–18

During the war, Garrett Morgan, an African American, invents a prototype gas mask. In 1922 he patents a forerunner to the modern automatic traffic light.

1919

Race riots break out across the British Isles, sparked in part by housing shortages. Black sailors and black-owned businesses are targeted and attacked by white crowds in cities including Glasgow and London.

1939–45

Troops from the British empire play a crucial role. Around 2,600,000 men and 100,000 women actively serve in the war. There are 1,200 in the Caribbean regiment, 5,500 in the RAF as ground crew, 300 Africans and Caribbeans in the RAF as air crew and 13 Victoria Crosses are awarded to 'colonial soldiers'.

1957

Ghana gains independence, becoming one of the first African states free of colonialism, led by Kwame Nkrumah.

Althea Gibson becomes the first black Wimbledon champion. In 1975, Arthur Ashe becomes the first black man to win the title.

1960

Mauritania, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria and Gabon are among more than a dozen African states that gain their independence. British prime minister Harold Macmillan acknowledges that the British Empire is crumbling, declaring that a 'wind of change' is blowing through Africa.

1963

The March on Washington, where Martin Luther King makes his famous 'I have a dream' speech.

1964

Nelson Mandela and other ANC leaders are sent to prison by the apartheid regime. The struggle for their release spawns a mass movement across the world.

1980

White rule ends in Rhodesia after a bloody struggle, and the state of Zimbabwe is declared. Robert Mugabe becomes prime minister and stays in power until 2017.

1984

Cape Town's Archbishop Desmond Tutu wins the Nobel peace prize for his outspoken criticism of the apartheid regime.

1994

Nelson Mandela, released from prison in 1990, is elected president of a multiracial South Africa.

Mass genocide in Rwanda. As many as half a million Rwandans die as the Hutu-dominated army, militias and others massacre the Tutsi population.

1997

Kofi Annan is the first sub-Saharan African to be elected to the top position within the United Nations as he takes on the role of secretary general.

2004

Kenyan environmental activist Wangari Maathai becomes the first African woman to receive the Nobel peace prize.

2006

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf takes office as president of Liberia, becoming African's first elected female head of state. Joyce Banda becomes the second, in Malawi in 2014.

2008

Barack Obama is elected as the first African American president of the United States.

2012

Trayvon Martin, an unarmed 17-year-old, is shot dead by George Zimmerman. A year later, after Zimmerman is acquitted of Martin's murder, the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter is used for the first time.

2014

12 Years a Slave, directed by Steve McQueen, takes the Best Picture award at the Oscars. Over the following years, black movie-making reaches new heights—hits include *Get Out*, *Hidden Figures* and *Moonlight* (this story of a black gay man wins the Best Picture Oscar in 2017). Biggest hit of all is the Marvel superhero movie, *Black Panther*, one of the most-watched movies of all time.

2015

A database is established at University College London, aiming to record every individual compensated by Britain at the abolition of slavery in 1833, and to show how widespread slave ownership was. Also in 2015, Britain's bill to pay those slaveowners is finally paid off—after 182 years.

Poverty and instability across Africa and the Middle East spark a huge increase in migration to Europe. Hundreds drown while crossing the Mediterranean. Those who survive arrive mainly in Italy, provoking a political crisis across the European Union over border controls. Immigration fears fuel the UK's Brexit debate.

2017

Edward Enninful becomes editor-in-chief of British Vogue magazine. His multi-ethnic first edition features mixed-race model Adwoa Aboah on the cover. Vanessa Kingori becomes the magazine's publishing director.

2018

Thousands of Caribbean migrants who had the right to settle in the UK have been denied NHS treatment and legal rights, wrongly detained, or in some cases deported. A public outcry ensues because these people had been invited to Britain to help it rebuild after the second world war.

2020

COVID-19 spreads across the planet, killing thousands, and disproportionately impacting on Black, Asian and minority-ethnic people.

Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old medical worker, is shot dead by plainclothes police officers while asleep in her home in Louisville, Kentucky.

George Floyd, arrested in Minneapolis on suspicion of using a fake banknote, is filmed being held down by the neck, under the knee of a white police officer, Derek Chauvin. After four minutes Floyd loses consciousness, but in total Chauvin holds his knee down for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Protests immediately spring up, growing globally. The Black Lives Matter movement for change sweeps the world.

After the killing of Rem'mie Fells and Riah Milton, two black trans women, in the US within 24 hours, a campaign grows declaring that Black Trans Lives Matter.

2021

Kamala Harris becomes the first female vice president and highest-ranking female official in US history, and the first vice president of colour.



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