

Black History Month at West Hampstead

Welcome to our newsletter! In this edition, we will shine a spotlight on the seven remarkable individuals that we have been learning more about. These inspiring people have shown courage, resilience, and a commitment to their communities.

Paul Stephenson: A Pioneer of Change

Paul Stephenson was born in 1937 in Bristol, England. He is best known for his role in the civil rights movement, particularly his efforts against racial discrimination. In 1963, Paul led the Bristol



Bus Boycott, a protest against the refusal to employ Black and Asian bus crews. His actions inspired many and eventually led to changes in employment policies.

Stephenson's determination made him a key figure in promoting social equality. He not only fought for justice in Bristol but also played an important role in influencing national law-making. Today, his work is remembered as a significant milestone in the fight against racism.

Benjamin Zephaniah: Poet and Activist



Benjamin Zephaniah was born in 1958 in Birmingham. He was not just a celebrated poet but also an activist who used his words to inspire change. Growing up in a multicultural environment, Benjamin faced challenges due to his heritage, but he turned those experiences into powerful poetry.

Through his writing, Zephaniah addressed issues like race, identity, and social justice. His books for children, such as *Talking Turkeys* and *Windrush Child*, combine humour with important messages that teach young readers about the importance of diversity and acceptance.

Diane Abbott: Breaking Barriers

Diane Abbott was born in 1953 in London. She made history in 1987 by becoming the first Black woman elected to the British Parliament. Her journey has been one of breaking barriers and fighting for equality in politics. Diane has always stood firm against injustice and has worked tirelessly to address issues concerning race, gender, and social inequality.



Throughout her career, Abbott has raised her voice on a variety of important topics, such as education, health care, and immigration policies. Her unwavering commitment has made her a respected figure in British politics. She continues to inspire young people, especially young women, to pursue their dreams.

Doreen Lawrence: A Mother's Fight for Justice



Doreen Lawrence is known for her courageous fight for justice following the tragic murder of her son, Stephen Lawrence, in 1993. Born in 1952 in Jamaica, Doreen moved to the UK as a child. After her son's death, she became an outspoken advocate for racial justice and has

worked to change the way violence against Black people is addressed in the UK.

Doreen's work led to the establishment of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, which aims to support young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Her efforts have not only raised awareness of the need for change in the police system but also encouraged a national dialogue about racism. Doreen continues to be a powerful voice for those seeking justice for victims of hate crimes.

Lilian Bader: A War Hero

Lilian Bader was born in 1920 and is celebrated as one of the first Black women to serve in the British Armed Forces during World War II. Always determined to break down barriers, Lilian joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) and later became a talented and dedicated member of the War Office.

Although she faced discrimination because of her race and gender, Lilian's commitment and bravery proved she was more than capable. After the war, she went on to

have a successful career in education, inspiring countless students. Lilian's story highlights the importance of resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity.



Beryl Gilroy: Pioneering Educator and Author



Beryl Gilroy was born in 1924 in British Guiana (now Guyana) and moved to the UK in 1951. She was the first Black headteacher in London, here at West Hampstead Primary and made significant contributions to education. Beryl faced prejudice throughout her career, yet she persevered and became a

champion for the rights of children from all backgrounds.

As a celebrated author, she wrote several children's books, including *The Black Snowman*, which addressed themes of race and cultural identity. Her work continues to inspire educators and young readers, emphasising the importance of inclusive education and understanding diverse perspectives.

Mary Seacole: A Heroine of the Crimea

Mary Seacole was born in 1805 in Jamaica. She is best known for her remarkable work as a nurse during the Crimean War. When she heard about the war, Mary travelled to London to offer her services but faced barriers due to her race. Undeterred, she funded her own journey to the battlefield and established the "British Hotel" to provide care for wounded soldiers.

Mary's bravery and compassion earned her respect and admiration. After the war, she shared her experiences in her autobiography, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands*. Today, she is celebrated as a trailblazer in nursing and a symbol of resilience and determination against racism and adversity.



We hope that the children enjoyed learning about these brave individuals and have learned that we all deserve to be treated with kindness and respect. It only takes one person to make a difference.

I just wanted to get in touch and share some information about the WHAM Bike Bus we're organising, to help children cycle safely to school!

We're running it on Wednesday mornings to begin with. The idea is to help kids cycle on the roads (rather than the pavements) by forming a big group, with kids in the middle and adults around them to protect them and make them visible. Attached are some of the photos of the inaugural West Hampstead Primary Bike Bus!

Tom James (Joni and Patti's dad).



Camden Family Learning
FREE STORY SESSIONS for Children Aged 3 Years Plus

Half Term
Story Sacks Sessions On
Tuesday 28th October
Swiss Cottage Library NW3 3HA
10:30am-12noon
West Hampstead Library NW6 1AU
1:30pm-3:00pm

Thursday 30th October
Kilburn Library NW6 5UH
10:30am-12noon
Camden Town Library NW11BD
1:30pm-3:00pm

Call Alison on 07876 651950 to book your place
You must book to join in (due to health & safety rules)

An exciting creative storytelling
and prop making session,
with
"Herman's Letter"

Each Family Can Take Home a Copy of This Book

Camden
MAYOR OF LONDON
matrix
Ofsted
Camden
Camden
Libraries



**Community Association
for West Hampstead**

Free Workshops for Children October Half Term 2025



**Mon, 27th Oct, 1pm - 4:30pm
Arts & Crafts**

Halloween Painting with Janine followed by a Nature Craft Session with Roshi who will show us how to create an Autumn Wreath.

**Tues, 28th Oct, 11am - 2:30pm
Cushion Making with Tash**

Bring a few old fabrics if you can and let's upcycle!

**Wed, 29th Oct, 11am - 2:30pm
Pumpkin Artwork & Capoeira**

A hands-on art workshop run by Roshi, where children can design, colour, and create their own pumpkin scene, followed by an energetic Capoeira session run by Senzala London.

**Fri, 31st Oct, 1pm - 4:30pm
Make your own Halloween Bag with Amber**

Trick or treating tonight? Get ready and create your own spooky bag .

All children's activities are aimed at children aged 6+.

**To book your free place, please email Anika:
candypeople@cawh.org.uk**



0207 794 3729 - 07561 698 704

www.cawh.org.uk - 17 Dornfell St NW6 1QN

Registered Charity: 1135778 - Ltd Company: 6956009

