



Haringey Council

Report for:	Communities Scrutiny Panel – 30 th September 2013	Item Number:	
Title:	Black History Month programme in the Libraries and Bruce Castle Museum		
Report Authorised by:	Cllr Watson, Member for Libraries		
Lead Officer:	Robert Mack, Senior Policy Officer, 0208 489 2921 rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk		
Ward(s) affected:	All wards	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:	Non key decisions

1. Describe the issue under consideration

Black History Month: The Panel requested details of the Black History Month programme in libraries as they may wish to feed in suggestions for next year. BHM events in the libraries are mainly publicised in the monthly **What's On**, which is available both in hard copy and online. This year we have produced a BHM brochure alongside the October edition of **What's On** (which will only list events). This is for ease of use and to avoid **What's On** becoming too large. The publications are distributed in various locations across the Council along with the use of social media, library plasma screens and posters. Details of individual events taking place in each library also appear on the Council website and the library webpage.

Libraries and Bruce Castle Museum have been organising Black History Month for some years. Staff in libraries and the museum have always embraced Black History Month with enthusiasm and all have helped deliver a huge variety of thought-provoking and entertaining events. There is no funding for activities and no staff allocated specifically to organise the BHM programme (apart from a Senior Librarian who has volunteered to act as a coordinator).

Despite this, libraries are generally able to tap into local partnerships and offer an extensive range of activities. The local community are always willing to deliver events and activities for free to the libraries. Last year's highlight was the Venture Smith exhibition and launch at Marcus Garvey Library. This year the programme features lectures, film showings, book launches, exhibitions and cultural and art activities. The libraries also arrange activities for children, including special events for invited classes of children from local schools.

It is customary to ask the Haringey Members of Parliament, the Member for Libraries and the Leader of the Council for an introductory paragraph for the programme.

Some highlights of this year's programme:

- Origins of the Afro Comb – exhibition (and launch of BHM) in association with the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge University (Bruce Castle Museum, 2.10.13)
- Family History workshop led by Patrick Vernon OBE (Wood Green Library, 10.10.13)
- Crime and Punishment – Black People at the Old Bailey 1674 to 1913 (Coombes Croft Library, 10.10.13)
- Enriching the Lives of Very Young Children of African Caribbean Background – seminar by author Barbara Fletcher-Smith (Wood Green Library, 11.10.13)
- Black History Quiz, with Quizmaster Cllr Joseph Ejiofor (Marcus Garvey Library, 12.10.13)
- Gateway to the Empire Windrush – discussion/debate with Cllr Pauline Gibson (Marcus Garvey Library, 22.10.13)
- The White-Washing of Black History- evening talk with Egyptologist Dr Sally-Ann Ashton (Bruce Castle Museum, 30.10.13)

Whilst the deadline for this year's programme has passed the panel are invited to provide feedback and suggestions for the programme next year.

2. Recommendation

N/A

3. Other options considered

N/A

4. Scrutiny Panels

N/A

5. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

N/A

6. Head of Legal Services and legal implications

N/A

7. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

N/A

8. Head of Procurement Comments

N/A

9. Policy Implications

N/A

10. Use of Appendices

Black History Month 2012 programme

Black History Month 2013 programme

11. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A