

Appendix A: Celebrating and supporting Croydon's BAME residents

October, 2019



Croydon's celebration of the Windrush Generation got underway with a special exhibition of artefacts, memories and stories in the Croydon Museum, launched in June.

The free exhibition runs until Thursday 31 October, and has been enjoyed by close to 2,500 residents so far.

Earlier this year the council passed a motion which included reviewing council policies and procedures to ensure support for Windrush residents who have been affected by national policy.

Events have taken place to give residents the chance to understand more about the issues concerning the immigration status of UK residents who arrived in Britain as part of the Windrush generation, and what is being done to combat it.

A year long programme of events celebrates the tremendous contribution this community has made to Croydon and the rest of the UK, for more details visit: <https://croydonwindrush.org/>

Windrush



Supporting this year's theme of "Rid the stigma" Croydon Council are hosting a schedule of events that includes:

- Bollywood dance
- Family Tree/Tracing Black Ancestry
- Visit to the House of Commons
- Black History Crafternoon
- Spoken Word and Poetry
- Hidden Histories of Black Women
- African Drumming
- BlackPoppyRose (WW2 experiences)
- Caribbean Experience
- Soul Vegan Supper Club

For more details visit: www.croydon.gov.uk/ccbh



Black History Month



An estimated 12,000 people headed to Croydon Mela for a colourful celebration of Asian culture, with music, dance, food, family fun and entertainment.

Co-produced by Croydon Council and Apsara Arts, and for the first time programmed by an all female crew from Croydon – Chetna Kapacee, Anusha Subramanyam and Malti Patel – the event showcased local talent on the Dance Dhamaka stage and Rung Mela Zone.

Headliners on the main stage included Apache Indian, DJ Ritu and Najma Akhtar alongside local groups.

Mela

In June, Faiths Together in Croydon (FTIC) hosted Croydon's fifth annual interfaith bike ride and picnic to show that #WeStandTogether.

Over 200 residents and visitors signed up to one of two bike rides, or simply came along and enjoyed a fabulous picnic provided by the Croydon Muslim Association, Asian Resource Centre Croydon and Croydon Seventh Day Adventists.



Interfaith bike ride

Croydon Council were highly commended in the representative workforce category at the 2019 ENEI awards.

In particular, this achievement recognises the work of our women's development and BAME aspiring managers programmes.

As of 2018:

- 75 BAME aspiring managers and 71 women completed these programmes
- 33.67% of the BAME group and 32% of the female participants have achieved career progression in the council since taking part



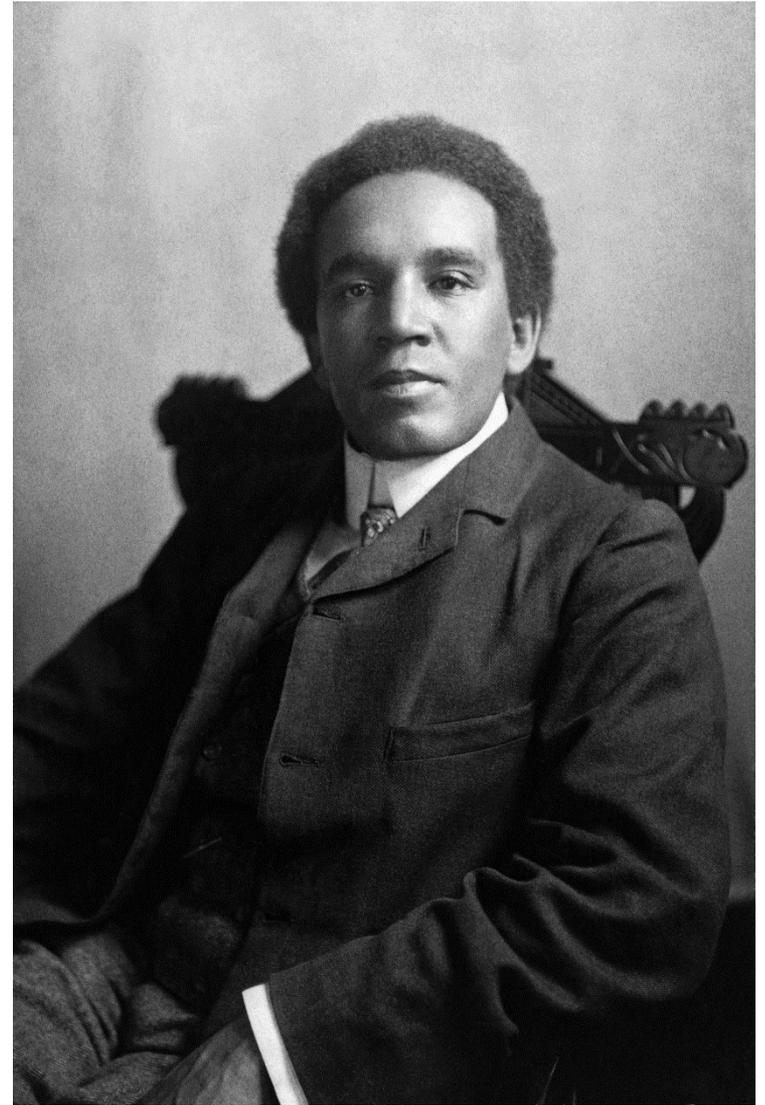
**Croydon Council ENEI highly recommended
– representative workforce**

Fairfield Halls

October, 2019

Fairfield Halls' Ashcroft Room will be renamed the Samuel Coleridge Taylor Suite, after the English composer (1875 – 1912).

Samuel lived most of his life in Croydon before his untimely death, aged 37.



The Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Suite



Talawa Theatre Company takes up residence within Fairfield Halls in Croydon in mid-September 2019. The new space gives the UK's primary Black theatre company a 200 seat studio and offices for the first time since 1995.

The Talawa Studio will operate as a central hub for Black British artists, enabling Talawa to develop a community outreach programme, develop new work, and create and premiere new Black theatre.

Talawa Theatre Company



Chineke! Orchestra is an 'Orchestra in Partnership' at Fairfield Halls.

Founded by musician Chi-chi Nwanoku OBE in 2015 Chineke! Orchestra is the first professional orchestra in Europe to be made up of majority black and minority ethnic musicians.

Chineke!'s sister ensemble, The Chineke! Junior Orchestra, with players aged 11-22 years old, will also be performing at the venue during the Croydon Youth Arts Takeover in November

Chineke! Orchestra

In July the council, police and partners launched an anti-hate crime pledge.

To date, over 6,000 people have signed up to the pledge which affirms:

Together, we want to...

- raise awareness of hate crimes
- encourage more people to take a stand against them
- encourage everyone to report hate crimes
- signpost to the support that's available for victims



The council also coordinates a Hate Crime Awareness Week that sees a diverse range of activities led by Councillors, young people, and guest speakers

Hate Crime



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is an illegal practice, a form of violence against women and girls, a form of child abuse and a violation of human rights. It is estimated that FGM affects approximately 1% of females in Croydon and 3% of maternities in Croydon.

The fight against FGM is key priority for both the Safer Croydon Partnership and the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership

Earlier this year the Council appointed their first specialist social worker to lead its preventative work against FGM.

Their work will primarily focus on helping those who have undergone FGM, and supporting those living in fear of this crime.

The social worker will also engage with residents, providing guidance and advice by working closely with community groups across the borough.

Croydon will also host a FGM conference later this year.

“Croydon leads the fight against FGM”



Croydon Council works in partnership with Operation Black Vote to deliver a Civil Leadership programme which is aimed at encouraging young Black Minority Ethnic (BME) residents in Croydon to participate in a career of politics/civic leadership.

Participation in Operation Black Vote

Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector

October, 2019



The Croydon BME Forum receives two awards from the Community Fund – one of £60,000 to deliver capacity building and direct support to empower BME voluntary and community sector.

The second of £169,500 to help fund a project delivered in partnership with Diabetes UK Croydon.



The Asian Resource Centre received £470,000 via the Croydon Community Fund in order to support their work.

Their mission is to support, develop and promote voluntary/community activity that enhances the quality of life in Croydon, creating and supporting an inclusive vibrant and sustainable voluntary and community sector that enhances local quality of life.

Examples of Community Grant funding



Awarded £1,000 from Croydon Community Grants, this project gives refugees an opportunity to socialise, learn a new language and take part in free football sessions every Friday evening at Croydon FC. This will run for 3 hours a week.

Croydon FC: Refugee project

Spandan strive to connect the Indian diaspora to its cultural roots by promotion of major Indian festivals in Croydon and organises four major events annually (Saraswati puja, Holi, Durga Puja and Diwali).



With the £2,000 awarded to them from the Community Grants, Spandan will expand their activities to include contribution to food banks, Christmas gifting for senior citizens, and digital enablement for the socially isolated.

Spandan (Croydon Bengali Association): Multi-cultural welfare events

Somali Girls Can were awarded £1,285 from the Community Grants to deliver regular structured sports for groups of 30 Somali young people aged 18-25.

They also run two different mentoring groups for these young Somalian girls.



Somali Girls Can: Sport for change

