

FAQ Black History Month

About Black History Month (BHM)

Black History Season is a season of events and activities that encompass the anniversary of Black History Month, which has been celebrated across since October 1987.

What is Black History Month?

Black History Month has its origins in the United States, where February has been recognised as Black History Month since 1926. It was thought that such a month was necessary in an effort to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of African Americans in keeping alive their heritage, traditions and histories.

In Britain, Black History Month was first celebrated in October 1987 as part of African Jubilee Year. It has since grown to celebrate the contributions and culture of Kent' s African and Caribbean communities to Kent' s economical and cultural histories.

What form do events take and where are they held?

Events take place the length and breadth of the country 21 years on. There is a richness and diversity of programmers who plan imaginative and thought provoking events, storytelling, walks, theatrical productions, comedy and the first Black History Month Ball, all having history as an integral part of the productions.

If it derives from the U.S. when was it set up there, why and when?

Carter G Woodson initiated the Negro History Week in 1926, which then became Black History Month. Carter Woodson chose February because of the birthday of two influential figures he considered had impacted on the conditions of the "Negro". Abraham Lincoln, American president, and Frederick Douglas.

What date does BHM start and when does it end? And why October?

1st - 31st October

October is very significant within the African Cultural calendar - the period of the Autumn equinox in Africa - is consecrated as the harvest period, the period of plenty, the period of the Yam festivals.

Apart from that, October is a period of tolerance and reconciliation in African; it is a period of the coming together of the various bodies that entailed the African societies. Black History is therefore a reconnection with learning from the past and using traditions to help shape a positive future.

October is also more or less the beginning of the school year, young people have had a long summer break, their minds are refreshed, and they are not saddled so much with homework or examinations. That was why October was chosen.

Who celebrates it? Can anyone participate, or is just for Black people?

Black History month is open to participation by everyone and is ideally developed, delivered and managed as an educational and historical awareness experience by Black people of African Heritage experience and should be shared by everyone as world history.

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