

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026

JOY AS RESISTANCE

Honouring our communities
in Brighton

Bud Johnston · Co-founder, BARCO · Black at Sussex
Annie Whilby · Co-founder, BARCO



A NEW HISTORY IN BRIGHTON

FOR US, BY US, WITH US

- Where it started – 2020
- Why we founded BARCO
- BRIGHTON BASH CARNIVAL
- St Ann's Well Gardens, every July
- From one day to a movement



THE EMERGENCE OF BLACK LEADERSHIP

STRONGER TOGETHER



BARCO

Community, culture,
the BASH



BLACK AT SUSSEX

Five years, 2022–2027



AFRORI BOOKS

Books of Black origin



ROOTS & ROUTES

Carnival to paid gigs

Brighton & Hove
City Council

Black Funding Network

BMEYPP

Brighton & Hove Albion

University of Brighton

University of Sussex

Arts Council England

National Lottery

Brighton & Hove
Museums

Sussex Bay

Sussex Community
Foundation

Chalk Cliff Trust

Mind

Komedia

Sussex Police

BHM 2026 THEME

HONOURING OUR COMMUNITIES

SB

Sarah Forbes Bonetta

Yoruba-born goddaughter of Queen Victoria who lived in Brighton

GB

George Bridgetower

Black virtuoso violinist at the Prince Regent's Brighton court

PH

Pauline Henriques

First Black actress on British TV; later lived in Brighton

BW

Bert Williams MBE

Co-founded Brighton & Hove Black History in 2002

FM

Faith Matyszak-Gander MBE

'Mrs Whitehawk' – lifelong champion of her estate

CB

Carolynn Bain

Opened Afrori Books, Brighton's first Black-owned bookshop

AW

Althea Wolfe

Brighton Book Festival

MC

Momma Cherri

Soul food chef and Brighton institution

CE

Chris Eubank Sr

World champion boxer who made Brighton and Hove home

CE

Chris Eubank Jr

Hove-born world champion boxer

CH

Chris Hughton

Led Albion into the Premier League in 2017

GM

Gavin Mensah-Coker

Chairs Black at Sussex; Head of English Language

LL

Lynette Linton

Playwright and director, Sussex alumna

BB

Black Brighton Market

Showcasing Black-owned businesses in Kemptown

CK

The Caribbean Kitchen

Caribbean food and reggae roasts at The Actors

BM

BMEYPP

Supporting Black and minority ethnic young people



JOY AS RESISTANCE

CELEBRATION IS A STATEMENT

- Joy takes up space
- Joy builds belonging
- Joy outlasts the hate

YOUR PART IN IT

- Come to the BASH
- Black at Sussex Conference, 26–27 Oct
- Sponsor, volunteer, partner
- Buy Black, book Black
- #OurBlackHistoryBrighton