

**Newsletter**

**Wandsworth**



I lost a friend after we had an argument about the Tardis.

I thought it was a little thing – but it seemed much bigger once we got into it.

**Black History Month: a time of “celebration”**

Black History Month in the UK is over 30 years old but there is a special significance this year with Black Lives Matter campaigning and the exposure of how many current fortunes derived from slavery. It’s on the lips of top politicians – Boris Johnson and Keir Starmer namechecked it in the Commons – and of celebrity royals Harry and Meghan

In a move that would have once been unthinkable, the Evening Standard enlisted the support of the duke and duchess in a campaign to celebrate Black British “trailblazers”. Harry offered an everyday example of how white people aren’t aware of how the world looks to people with a different skin: “You know, when you go into a shop with your children and you only see white dolls, do you even think: ‘That’s weird, there is not a black doll there?’” He described **Black History Month** as a month of celebration.

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- **Your Committee reports on ....**
- **.. our Zoom licence**
- **and Who does What**
- **Word Perfect**
- **Competition time**

**What's happening in Wandsworth?**

Council Leader Ravi Govindia, who migrated to the UK aged 17 following General Idi Amin's expulsion of Ugandan Asians, said: “Black History Month is an exceptional opportunity for everyone to learn about the history of black people who have made an impact in not only our borough but across the nation. We will be showcasing the work of pioneering black people both in the community and in business who are making a huge contribution both to the diversity and vitality of this borough.



**Council Leader Ravi Govindia, kicked out of Uganda**

“Libraries will host online events celebrating African and Caribbean cultures and histories. Alongside this, the council will be spotlighting and sharing the experiences of black members of our community. All videos will be streamed through our **YouTube channel**.” (<https://www.youtube.com/WandsworthBC>)

**What can we do?** These are subjects ripe for discussion by, say, the History or Current Affairs Groups – or a talk at a monthly meeting. Overleaf we look at books relevant to Black History, books we could take away and digest and debate at history and book group meetings – or elsewhere! We can add our voice to Wandsworth Council’s campaign for a statue for John Archer, London’s first black mayor. The Council has recently pledged £10,000.

**NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Don Brind and Peter Martin are keen to hear from you.

Please email us at

[u3anewswands@gmail.com](mailto:u3anewswands@gmail.com)

PM: 020 8672 8150  
DB: 020 8673 1116



## YOUR COMMITTEE REPORTS: WE JOIN THE ZOOM BOOM

Love it or hate it, Zoom is going to be part of the life of the U3A for a long time to come. So, after months of deliberation, your Wandsworth U3A Committee has agreed to upgrade to the Pro version.

There are two key advantages. It means an end to that tiresome 40-minute limit. The Zoom Pro license allows us to host unlimited group meetings with up to 100 people and the meetings can last as long as people want to stay logged in. It also means we can designate group leaders as hosts.

The Pro account also lets you record to the Cloud, with 1 GB of cloud recording space at no additional cost. There is also the opportunity to live-stream meetings to Facebook and YouTube. The modern world, eh?

It may take a couple of weeks to set it up. So watch this space.

## WHO'S WHO

### Chair

Don Brind

### Secretary

Zenobia Cowan-Davies

### Treasurer

Joan Inglis

### Membership Secretary

Kelly Jones

### Groups Organiser

Helen Long

### Meetings Secretary

Terry Cole

### Publicity and Website

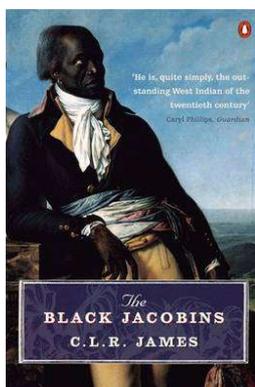
Maggie Jones

**NOT SO WORD PERFECT** Countdown's resident lexicographer Susie Dent had to admit that the initial printing of her new book – described by its publisher as a “brilliant linguistic almanac” – had been completed using an early version of the text and so early copies of Word Perfect are not word perfect. Dent told the Times: “I just opened it up and saw there was something wrong in the acknowledgments. And then I had to close it because I felt a bit sick.” Dent has appeared in the Channel 4 quiz show Countdown's Dictionary Corner since 1992. In Word Perfect she provides the stories behind a word for every day of the year, from why May Day became a distress call to the meaning of “snaccident” – unintentionally eating a whole packet of biscuits.

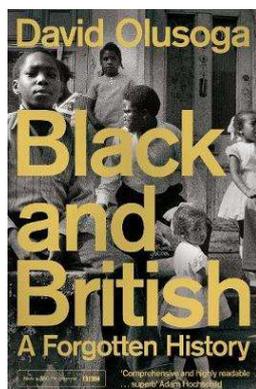
**TPYO\* COMPETITION** I remember using Word Perfect in the 1990s. Thankfully Bill Gates came along and gave us the Word which is used to create this newsletter. Hidden somewhere on these two pages are two deliberate typos. Spot them and you will get your name in lights in the next edition. Spot an undeliberate typo and you'll get a Donald Trump MAGA cap. What more could you want? Answers to: [u3anewswands@gmail.com](mailto:u3anewswands@gmail.com)  
\*no, this is not one of them, I'm afraid – just designed to catch your attention

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH: SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOKSHELVES

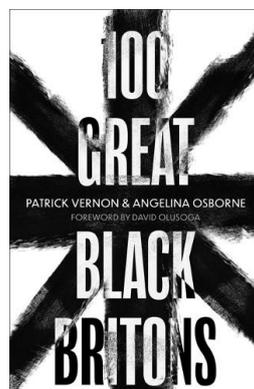
**Who writes History? Who decides what we learn?** We all know that it's the victors who write history – and here we have one book about a winner. But when it comes to *learning* history, how do we found out about those books that don't tell of king and queens but of the downtrodden and those who fought for a better world? So the *Black Curriculum* movement is calling for school students to learn about black British history throughout the year rather than just this one month.



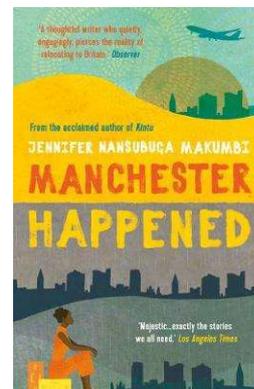
Documents the sole successful slave revolt in history, painting a fascinating portrait of it's leader Toussaint L'Ouverture and the birth of the independent Black state of Haiti.



A definitive history of Britain's troubled history with the people of Africa and the Caribbean from the Roman era, taking in Elizabethan 'blackamoors' and the slave trade.



Celebrates the lives, stories and achievements of the British of African and Caribbean descent and their role in our island's history.



"This crisp collection of short fiction charts the experiences of Ugandan migrants in Britain in twelve exquisitely crafted vignettes."