

The theme for International Women's Day (IWD) in 2025

"Accelerate Action".

The theme focuses on speeding up progress towards gender equality.

#IWD2025

Let's ACCELERATE ACTION for Women's equality

#AccelerateAction

Contact us
Karen: 07523947495
Women's History Month
Hull University
Wilberforce Institute for the
Study of Slavery and Emancipation
27 High Street, Hull, HU1 1NE.

A month long celebration and commemoration of Women's History



WEAR PURPLE DAY
#goingpurplehull



**Saturday 1st March
until
Monday 31st March**

Celebrating Women's Achievement

Hull Women's History Month

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE



Diana has been the Labour MP for Hull North since 2005 - the first woman elected to Westminster representing a Hull seat. Since the 2024 General Election, Diana now represents the new seat of Kingston upon Hull North and Cottingham.

Following Labour's victory at that same General Election, Diana is currently the Minister of State for Policing, Fire and Crime Prevention at the Home Office.

Diana was born in the North West of England and read Law at Queen Mary College, London University. She qualified as a Barrister and worked for many years in Community Law Centres. Before entering Parliament, Diana had served as a local councillor and as a Non-Executive Director in the NHS.

Under the Labour Government between 2005 and 2010 Diana was a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department of Children, Schools and Families and a Government Whip. Since 2010, Diana has held a variety of Labour Opposition Front Bench posts, including in Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Health.

Diana was Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee from December 2021 to May 2024. Alongside this, she served on the Liaison Committee and the Joint Committee on National Security Strategy. Previously Diana was a member of the Intelligence and Security Committee.

In addition, Diana served as a member of the Independent Commission for the Integration of Refugees and since 2019 has been one of the Parliamentary representatives on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Diana plays an active role on the British American Parliamentary Group and has Chaired several cross-party parliamentary groups, including: Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood, Friends of the University of Hull, Human Rights, Left Behind Neighbourhoods, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

Diana has a reputation of standing up for her Hull constituents at Westminster. Notable local successes include campaigning for Siemens to locate to Hull, supporting the expansion of the Hull-York Medical school, working cross-party on reducing Humber Bridge tolls, supporting Hull's bid to be UK City of Culture 2017, and the building of a new pumping station at Bransholme after the 2007 floods.

Diana is patron of the Hull and East Riding RSPCA, the National Civilian World War Two Memorial Trust, the Haemophilia Society and Hull and East Riding Breast Friends, a local breast cancer charity.

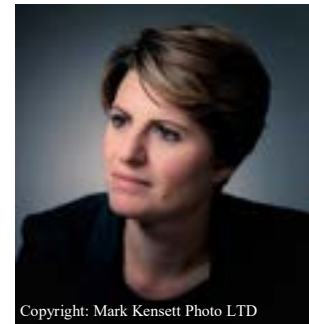
Diana was named Backbencher of the Year in 2018 for her work to secure a Public Inquiry into the NHS contaminated blood scandal. In the 2020 New Year's Honours, Diana was appointed as a Dame Commander for her and political work and in 2021 joined The Privy Council.

When not out and about in Hull North and Cottingham or at Westminster, Diana is a fan of crime novels, cinema, chocolate cake, strong tea and black Labradors.

Office of Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE Labour Member of Parliament for Kingston upon Hull North and Cottingham Home Office Minister of State for Policing, Fire and Crime Prevention

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Tel 0207 219 8465 (Westminster Office)
Tel 01482 319135 (Hull Office)



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Emma Hardy MP

“Emma Hardy has been an MP since 2017. She joined Keir Starmer's shadow cabinet as Shadow Universities Minister in 2020 and re-joined the shadow cabinet in 2023 as Shadow Minister for Flooding, Oceans and Coastal Communities.

In between her time in the shadow cabinet, Emma sat on the Treasury Select Committee and chaired

Following the Labour Party's victory in the 2024 General, Emma Hardy was appointed as Minister for Water and Flooding in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by the Prime Minister.

Since becoming an MP, Emma has campaigned on topics like improving flood mitigation and protection, women's health, reducing school uniform costs to help families, improving access to work, and increasing biodiversity.”

Office of Emma Hardy MP Labour Member of Parliament for Kingston upon Hull West and Haltemprice Minister for Water and Flooding Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Tel 0207 2194 193 (Westminster Office)
Tel 01482 219211 (Hull Office)

Hull Women's History Month



Alison Collinson

Ward: Boothferry



Anita Harrison

Ward: North Carr



Anna Thompson

Ward: Southcoates



Cheryl Payne

Ward: Derringham



Jessica Raspin

Ward: Southcoates



Julia Conner

Ward: Longhill
& Bilton Grange



Karen Wood

Ward: Avenue



Leanne Fudge

Ward: St Andrews
& Docklands



Christine Randall

Ward: West Carr



Deborah Matthews

Ward: Orchard Park



Denise Thompson

Ward: Ings



Diana Hatcher

Ward: Drypool



Linda Chambers

Ward: Drypool



Linda Tock

Ward: Holderness



Lynn Petrini

Ward: Newington
& Gypsyville



Maria Coward

Ward: Boothferry



Gill Kennett

Ward: Newington
& Gypsyville



Hester Bridges

Ward: Southcoates



Jackie Dad

Ward: Holderness



Holly Burton

Ward: University



Riahannon Beeson

Ward: Avenue



Rosemary Pantelakis

Ward: Marfleet



Rosie Nicola

Ward: Orchard



Sarita Robinson

Ward: Derringham

Meet your female Councillors

Hull Women's History Month



Sharon Belcher

Ward: Marfleet



Sharon Hoffman

Ward: Holderness



Sharon Kassim

Ward: Central



Sherrilee Jepmond

Ward: Loghill
& Bilton Grange



Tracey Henry

Ward: Pickering



Tracey Neal

Ward: West Carr



Tracy Dearing

Ward: Newington
& Gypsyville

First Female Lord Mayors of Kingston-upon-Hull



Annie Major MBE

Born 25 May 1904
Kingston Upon Hull, England

Died 22 January 1981 (aged 76)

Politician and Lord Mayor Annie Major was Hull's first female Lord Mayor, serving her term of office in 1965-66 and being awarded the MBE in 1965.

Female Lord Mayors of Kingston-upon-Hull

1969 Maude Heath

1975 Catherine Eliza Ellis

1981 Phyllis Clarke

1987 Violet Alice Mitchell

1988 Marjorie Smelt

1994 Mima Bell

2000 Beattie Ware

2007 Brenda Petch

2008 Elaine Garland

2009 Karen Woods

2013 Nadine Fudge

2014 Mary Glew

2015 Anita Harrison

2020 Lynn Petrini

2021 Lynn Petrini (Second term due to Covid Pandemic)

2022 Christine Randall



Lynn Petrini

Lord Mayor 2020 & 2021



Anita Harrison

Lord Mayor 2015



Christine Randall

Lord Mayor 2022



Nadine Fudge

Lord Mayor 2013

Women's History Month 2025



Eunice Hull's Young Mayor 2024

Eunice has been voted as Hull's new Young Mayor.

Almost 100 young people met in the Guildhall last month and cast their votes for who they would like to lead Hull Young People's Parliament.

Six candidates put forward their manifestos anonymously and those in attendance made their choices based on those submissions.

Eunice, 14, of Newland School for Girls, received the most votes, replacing outgoing Young Mayor for Hull, Amaya. She will be supported by Deputy Young Mayor, Isabel, 15, of St Mary's College.

Eunice said: "Being voted as Hull's Young Mayor, I'm not going to lie, it's a big thing for me. I am so happy and so grateful to everyone who voted for me."

"My ambition is to help to make Hull a safer place, especially for girls and women. They need to know that it's safe to walk home at night."

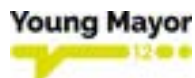
"Hull Young People's Parliament is a safe space and it really is a place for your voice to be heard, especially as a black person in a city where no one knows me and I've sometimes felt that I don't belong."

"I would recommend 1,000 per cent for young people to get involved in Hull Young People's Parliament."



Young Mayor, Eunice, with members of Hull Young People's Parliament

Hull Youth Parliament



Amaya Hull's Young Mayor 2022 - 2024



Campaign Food and Solutions

Amaya spoke about the campaign she has been working on which is the Food Poverty app. It is linked to the UK youth parliament campaign "the cost of living" and is also a way to combat loneliness.

Amaya with Germaine - Deputy Young Mayor

Amelia Young Mayor 2021 - 2022

Amelia Franczak, aged 12, from St Mary's College, was selected from 35 young people who applied.

The Young Mayor's campaign group panel chose Amelia following her presentation on nationalism and racism, and felt she would be able to connect to anyone young and old. Antiracism through kindness and Positivity.



Amelie Franczak & Matt Jukes

Gabriella Young Mayor 2019 - 2021



Love Staying Safe Campaign

The Love Staying Safe campaign was launched by Gabriela Surdyk, the Young Mayor of Hull, to help young people stay safe. The campaign provides practical advice and tips for young people.

Emily Young Mayor 2018 - 2019

Emily Koyunca was elected as the city's first Young Mayor. The Young Mayor represents young people in the city, acting for their opinions rather than for a political party.

Emily said her experiences during Hull's year as the UK City of Culture in 2017 had been a factor in putting herself forward for the role.



Women's History Month 2025



The next annual Hull Young People's Parliament will take place on Thursday 23 October 2025 at the Guildhall and the pop-up parliaments will continue to run throughout the year. Young people are able to vote on what they want UK Youth Parliament to campaign on by voting on Make Your Mark. They are also able to vote on who they want to be their next UK Youth Parliament reps for Hull.

If your school / youth group would like to host a pop-up parliament, please get in touch.

Contact Ruth Cowlam, email ruth.cowlam@hullcc.gov.uk
Postal address: Kingston Youth Centre,
48a Beverley Road, HULL, HU3 1YE

For further information phone: 07926075669

St Stephen's Neighbourhood Centre (SSNC)

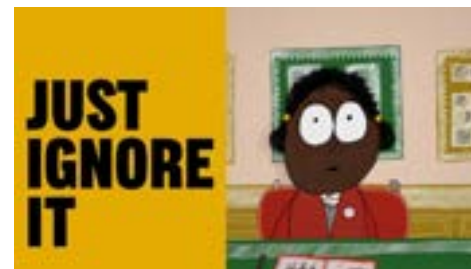
My name is Ruby and I attended Youth Parliament in the past. I am 16 years old and I am currently studying at Wilberforce College. I am studying Psychology, Criminology and Photography.

As a volunteer at St Stephen's Neighbourhood Centre Kids Club, it's really fun and brings back all the good memories of when I used to attend when I was younger.



Ruby

My ambitions to continue my studies with a view to go onto university to become and qualify as a Criminal Psychologist.



Youth Aspire Connect Film about racism

Premiered Oct 14, 2023 KINGSTON UPON HULL

Just Ignore It is a film about racism. We worked with young people in Hull to create this animation based on their real life experiences of racism and racial prejudice. These are true stories that have effected everyone who took part.

The young people, who are part of our Anti racism Campaign group at Youth Aspire Connect wanted to make something that gave a positive message, that empowered people to challenge racism and brought people together. They wanted to make a difference and the film is full of tips and advice on how to challenge racism in a safe way. Both in the classroom and in the wider world.

We want teachers, schools, pupils and students to watch the film and make it apart of conversations about racism. The group has also written an Anti-Racism Policy for schools that we hope will be adopted across Hull, Yorkshire and beyond.

We hope that this film can bring people together, to encourage them to talk about race and to encourage them to challenge racism. The vision of the young people is to build an inclusive society, where every child regardless of their race can thrive and reach their full potential.

The film was produced with My Pockets an award winning production company based in East Yorkshire and supported by Hull City Council.

If you need a copy of the policy, kindly send us an email at

info@youthaspireconnect.org.uk or youthaspireconnect@gmail.com

We are seeking for more support to help us create more resources. If you or your organisation can help, your donation and support will go a long way to help our young people achieve their vision of building an inclusive society that works for all.



Founded in 2006 the **Wilberforce Institute of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE) Hull University** aims to advance fundamental knowledge of slavery and emancipation, informing policy, business practice and public debate at local, national and international levels.

The Wilberforce Institute is recognised world international for its work in Understanding and learning from the past, present and in Advancing the cause of Freedom.

The Wilberforce Institute brings together experts in humanities, law and social sciences to help tackle this global problem head on. Through our research and practice, we give leaders and communities the tools they need to help shape a better future.

Dr. Ndiweteko Jennifer Nghishitende

Dr. Ndiweteko Jennifer Nghishitende is a mother and educator dedicated to amplifying women's voices and rights. As a scholar and lecturer specialising in modern slavery, human rights, and refugee protection, she explores the often-overlooked intersections in women's lives, such as the impact of motherhood,



She is deeply passionate about anti-racism and actively works to challenge systemic inequalities while elevating the voices of marginalised communities. Through education, advocacy, and storytelling, she confronts racial injustice and promotes equity, striving to create inclusive spaces where diverse experiences are recognised and valued.

She has a blog site called [African Queen's Ink](#), which is dedicated to reviewing books written by African women and women of African descent. Through her insightful reviews, she highlights the richness, complexity, and diversity of African women's storytelling, bringing greater visibility to their voices in literature. [African Queen's Ink](#) serves as both a celebration of African women's literary contributions and a platform for critical discussions on themes of identity, history, and social justice.

Website: [African Queen's Ink](#)

Instagram: @africanqueensink



Hull Amnesty Group are part of a global movement of over ten million people, Amnesty International is the worlds largest grassroots human rights organisation.

We investigate and expose abuses, educate and mobilise the public and help transform societies to create a safer, more just world. We received the Nobel Peace Prize for our life-saving work. We are ordinary people from across the worlds standing up for humanity and human rights.

Hull Amnesty Group meet the last Thursday of the month, except December, ..April to September we meet at 6:30pm at Hull Central Library, Room 1, 2nd Floor, Albion Street, Hull, HU1 3TF. October to March we meet via Skype.

Contact: secretaryhullamnestygroup@gmail.com
[Facebook.com/hullamnestygroup](https://www.facebook.com/hullamnestygroup)



Cecile Oxaal

Chair
Hull Amnesty Group

Former Chair of Hull Amnesty Group Cecil Oxaal's family history, is one of mixed heritage from wealthy white slaveholders. Cecile spent more than thirty years teaching in High schools.


Cecile is a member of **HULL WOMEN'S LITERARY CLUB** which was founded in 1960 for women interested in literature and other arts. A keen historian and author, Cecile explores the background of Dr. Murdoch, a Scottish medical doctor who settled in Hull in 1896 and who galvanised the suffrage campaign in Hull and East Yorkshire and she is known for her book **Not Just Wilberforce: Champions of Human Rights Hull and East Yorkshire** co written by Ekkehard Kopp (Hard cover, 2014).

Cecile continues to campaign for humanity and human rights, during Women's History Month and throughout the year with Hull Amnesty Group



Women's History Month 2025

*A day to celebrate women
to mark International
Women's Day*






A panel discussion with Dame Diana Johnson MP, Cecife Oxaal (Hull Amnesty Group) and Dr Ndiweteko Jennifer Nghishitende (University of Hull) come together to discuss ...

What is it like to be a woman in Hull?

Wilberforce Institute

27 High St, Hull HU1 1NE
Friday 7th March 2025
Time: 1pm
For more information contact
Karen: 07523947495
Email: sophie.blanchard@hull.ac.uk

FREE TO ATTEND



Hull Help for Refugees



HHfR was established in August 2015 in response to the shocking picture of a 3 year old Syrian boy, Alan Kurdi whose body was washed up on a Turkish beach, while his family were trying to seek refuge. We are a grassroots collective of individuals who wish to aid refugees in the current humanitarian crisis and provide support for other destitute people.

Our main focus is in collecting men's clothing and trainers for those who come here with hardly anything to wear. We are also keen to collect tombola items and children's toys and games. All money raised is spent on improving the lives of those who have lost everything through war and conflict. We are also committed to raising awareness of Hull as a City of Sanctuary and welcome volunteers. You can find us on our website and on Face book.

<https://hullhelpforrefugees.org.uk/Source>

https://www.facebook.com/HullHelpForRefugees/?locale=en_GB

WEAR PURPLE DAY

The theme for International Women's Day (IWD) in 2025

City Centre Civic buildings will illuminate in **PURPLE** to mark International Women's Day, highlighting the importance of equality. This initiative aims to promote awareness and encourage conversations about women's injustice.

Join us in standing against discrimination and celebrating gender equality, wear something **PURPLE**.

#IWD2025

Let's **ACCELERATE ACTION** for Women's equality

#AccelerateAction

#goingpurplehull



“Fair trade is a racial justice issue. The current unfair global trade system is a legacy of European colonialism and people of colour are its most prominent victims. This is especially true of black people with family origins in Africa and the Caribbean whose ancestors were enslaved. You cannot tell a story about sugar, cotton, coffee, chocolate and bananas without understanding how these came to be everyday commodities for European consumers, and the impact of that on the black farmers and workers who worked - and continue to work - in challenging conditions with low pay.

As campaigners and supporters for fair trade it's vital that we amplify the stories and histories of the black people in our communities who have made the UK the vibrant country it is today, and honour the legacy of the farmers and workers. Tea is the most popular drink in the world after water – an estimated 70,000 cups are drunk every second. Yet tea farmers and workers struggle to get a fair deal. This can have a very real and human cost.

One in four children in Kenya's tea and coffee-growing regions are malnourished, leading to stunted growth. One in 10 children in the tea-growing regions of Malawi die before their fifth birthday.

Tea is produced on large plantations or estates and picked by employed workers. It is also grown on small plots of land by small-scale farmers who sell their freshly-plucked green leaf to plantations or tea factories for processing into black tea.

In Africa, the average small-scale farmer's farm is less than half the size of a football pitch. Tea farmers face the challenge of low and fluctuating prices for the green leaf they sell, and a lack of power in a tea supply chain dominated by large companies.

On tea estates, the challenges for workers vary depending on the origin. Workers may face low wages, long working hours and a difficult relationship with estate management. Often it is the management they depend on for basic needs such as housing, healthcare, access to water and even education for their children.



Satemwa Tea Estates Ltd, Malawi

Satemwa Tea Estate is located in the Shire Highlands of southern Malawi. Tea is a major employer and earner of foreign exchange for the Malawian economy.



Supporters of Fairtrade, Hull University Students Union and Hull Fairtrade Partnership Group are holding an event a **'Big Brew'** .

“BIG BREW”

Why not pop for a brew!

Venue Student Union
Date Friday 14th March
Time 10.30am – 3pm..



Sharon Clay
 Supporter of Fairtrade

In my work and at home I feel incredibly lucky to have so many amazing, strong and inspiring women in my life.

My role of Partnership Development and Engagement Lead at Hull City Council means I get to work alongside women from all backgrounds who are committed to making a difference in the city, and who do this by collaborating, empowering and supporting others. Strong women with a 'can do' attitude to life are also a feature of my family (perhaps stemming from our Hessle Road roots!), ranging from their 20's to over a hundred years old. My female friends and neighbours are also a source of strength and joy to me.

To the women in my life : thank you for being you, and for the things you do.
 Sharon

Sharon Clay Partnership Development and Engagement Lead

Telephone: + 00 44 (0) 1482 613281

Mobile: 07872 416003

Email: sharon.clay@hullcc.gov.uk



Women's History Month 2025



Laura Mesinskyte

At the Hull Lithuanian Society Linas, we have an inspiring group of individuals who bring energy, passion, and pride to their community. Regina shares how being a part of this vibrant group is special to her: "I love seeing how the youth in our community is so active and engaged. It feels great to be among such dynamic, hardworking women. Here, I can make my dreams and ideas come true. It's not only about gaining new knowledge but also about giving, sharing, and creating. I want to live a fulfilled life and leave something behind for the next generation to remember me by."

Laura, who moved to Hull 17 years ago from a small town in Lithuania, believes in representing her roots while embracing life in this diverse city: "I'm proud to be Lithuanian, but I also love living in Hull. My mission is to spread the beauty of Lithuania's traditions, share them with my children, and introduce Lithuania to the locals who may not know much about us."

Sigita enjoys playing an active role in the Lithuanian Society's activities. She emphasizes the importance of celebrating Lithuanian state holidays, preserving traditions, and setting an example for the younger generation. "It's very rewarding to participate in events that bring us all together," she says. Viktorija reminds us how small efforts can lead to big changes: "Small things change the world."

Every day, we should strive to do our best, listen to others, keep learning and doing, and help everyone feel like they're part of this meaningful community." Together, these incredible women make up an essential part of the Hull Lithuanian Society Linas, where they actively contribute to the warmth, growth, and unity of the community. Our activities not only promote the preservation of our cultural heritage but also foster new friendships.

Email: mesinskytel30@gmail.com

Together, these incredible women are an essential part of Hull Lithuanian Society Linas, where we not only promote our cultural heritage through regular events but also create lasting bonds within our community. We celebrate statehood day events, host traditional craft workshops, organize hikes, and hold a vibrant Christmas market.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce that on March 11th we will host a Lithuanian quiz to commemorate the 11th of March – the day of the restoration of Lithuania's independence. On March 30th, join us for a traditional palms and Easter egg decoration workshop.



Lithuanian Community in Hull & St John's Church Rosmead Street
Thursday Group - Supporters of Fairtrade



Lithuanian Community in Hull

Email: linasclub@gmail.com



Women's History Month 2025



Louise Yates BEM

Louise started her career as an actor and performing arts teacher with a passion for engaging young people in the Arts. She managed the region's largest youth arts organisation, Creative Connexions Humber, before becoming Arts Development officer at Hull City Council.

At Hull City Council Louise became involved in the UK City of Culture 2017 bid, her experience of engaging hard to reach communities leading to the role of Producer on the Back to Ours Festival and year-long Land of Green Ginger project. Throughout the delivery year Louise focused her work in communities, programming circus in school sports halls and atriums, famous indie bands in shopping centres and Secret Gigs into working men's clubs.

As CEO and Artistic Director of Back to Ours her vision coupled with her distinct invitation and ingredients have sparked a real connection with residents in Hull. Having developed a strong brand with a voice that's warm and welcoming, Louise transitioned Back to Ours from being a project to an independent charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, that continues to delight new and existing audiences.



BRANSHOLME CHAT

Back to Ours is and always has been about people, and what do people like doing best? Having a right good old natter.

Launched in 2019 with a grant from the National Community Lottery Fund, Bransholme Chat is a legacy of the Gold Nose of Green Ginger, part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017 Land of Green Ginger project. It became evident that people wanted a community space, a place to meet and chat, swap stories and try lots of different things.

It's a place people can come and meet other people, there's always someone to talk to and it's for any age. A shop that brings people together and helps to build new friendships, at a time when social isolation is at its highest. We have a programme of weekly activities and special events throughout the year, it's a place to come along and have some fun with other local people.

Bransholme Chat is a fantastic community space and multi-functional, the front room is open for drop-in chat and the back room is really versatile. It's been used for exhibitions, activities, gigs, and even small theatre shows – our in-house children's show High Horse premiered for a week before moving onto The Big Malarkey and Freedom Festival, and it was also a hive of production activity during 1940's punk-pop circus opera Back to Bransholme.

If you're interested in using the space get in touch: team@backtoours.co.uk

Open every Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 12pm and 1pm – 3pm

BACK to OURS

Louise Yates
(She/Her)

CEO & Artistic Director
Back to Ours Arts Limited

p: +44 (0) 7753 171181
e: louise.yates@backtoours.co.uk

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A MEMBER OF

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Women's History Month 2025

B B C

NEWS Australian whose blood saved 2.4 million babies

One of the world's most prolific blood donors - whose plasma saved the lives of more than 2 million babies - has died.

James Harrison died in his sleep at a nursing home in New South Wales, Australia on 17 February, his family said on Monday. He was 88 known in Australia as the man with the golden arm, Harrison's blood contained a rare antibody, Anti-D, which is used to make medication given to pregnant mothers whose blood is at risk of attacking their unborn babies.

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service who paid tribute to Harrison, said he had pledged to become a donor after receiving transfusions while undergoing a major chest surgery when he was 14. He started donating his blood plasma when he was 18 and continued doing so every two weeks until he was 81.

In 2005, he had the world record for most blood plasma donated - a title he held until 2022 when he was overtaken by a man in the US.

Harrison's daughter, Tracey Mellowship, said her father was "very proud to have saved so many lives, without any cost or pain".

Kelly Ng
BBC News

3rd March 2025



Create and Express is inspired by the British Council's Active Citizen programme. We are a Non-for-profit BAME led arts organisation using music as a tool for mitigating and raising awareness of Sickle Cell, Blood donations and on social issues impacting Hull BAME communities and raising profile of BAME artists!



@CreateandExpressLtd

CREATE AND EXPRESS PRESENTS

Women's History Month 2025

An illustration of three women sitting in white chairs. The woman on the left is wearing a white top and a patterned skirt. The woman in the middle is wearing a black top and a striped skirt. The woman on the right is wearing a red dress. The background features decorative patterns and circular motifs.

Women Leading the Conversation
Sickle Cell & Blood Donation

Guest speaker & Testimonials
Live music (Hekima), Tasty African snacks
Saturday, 22nd March, 1-5pm

Spring Bank Community Centre, West Parade, Spring Bank, Hull HU3 1BX

Thank You Hull City Council

07491431631 / 07955660919

Give Blood Save Lives

Women's History Month 2025

Welcome to Hull & East Riding Breast Friends,

YOUR local breast cancer charity.

"There are no strangers here, only friends you haven't yet met" WB Yeats

If you visit our suite of rooms within the K2 Building, you will see the above quote on the sign of our door, and this sentiment is echoed in the first lines of the founding values of **HER Breast Friends**.

Every member will feel welcome, we promote laughter, happiness and self esteem.

As you've probably already worked out from those two opening statements, **HER Breast Friends** is a group that doesn't focus on breast cancer; this is merely the thing that brings us all together providing a common bond, and just as the disease has many different elements to it, so too has the Charity.

You may just have been diagnosed and are looking for information on what is available locally or want to know how to access our services. Or you may have finished your treatment and not sure what is next?

Perhaps you are learning to live with a secondary breast cancer diagnosis?

HER Breast Friends isn't just about support though, we aim to inspire and encourage, and really make a difference by helping to promote a positive approach to living with the disease.

So, as the sign on our door says, and whether you simply want to access our services, or become a part of what makes our charity great – our membership – you can be assured of a warm welcome, and we look forward to meeting you.

"It may be the beginning of some extraordinary friendships"

Tel. 01482 221368

herbreastfriends.org.uk

Hull and East Riding Breast Friends
8th Floor, K2 Building, 60 Bond St,
Hull HU1 3EN



Women's Day Vocal workshop

Saturday 8 March 2025

10:30 am to 12 noon

at Princes Ave Methodist Church, Hull

Join this workshop for all voices for International Women's Day. Singing music that celebrates women on this special day.

Singing leader Clare Drury, explores songs old and new and welcomes everyone, regardless of gender to join in this workshop. She encourages you to have fun, explore harmony and experience the joy of group singing.



No need to read music - all songs are taught by ear.

All are welcome

£7/5 per person*

Singing is our birthright - free your voice and feel good

Contact Clare to book or just turn up:

email: singwithclare@outlook.com
Visit website: www.ClareDrury.com
Find us on Facebook - Saturday Sing

*if money is a barrier talk to Clare about a discount

Photo by Ellie Hardy



Women's History Month 2025

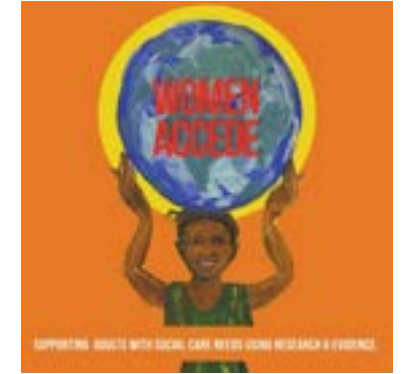


Sarah Koroma

Sarah Koroma is twelve years old her school is Boulevard Academy, Hull She is in year 7 and has been helping the children in Freetown with Breakfast food and shoe boxes. Sarah standing proud ready for the last container to shipped out this year.



Women-Accede



Women-Accede is an older people-friendly organisation. Our core activities are befriending and socialising (Drop in) for better health and wellbeing. We are also developing projects around organic food growing and gardening.

We aim to use research and evidence to back up our workWomen - Accede work collaboratively with other organisations to broaden our client base and improve outcomes for them.

Women - Accede



Boulevard Academy



Nneka Ofoegbu-McCourt

Women-Accede Drop in is ongoing and hot meals, drinks and snacks are standard.



Email ethiohabesha@gmail.com
Phone 01482 652444



Ethio - Habesha
16 Wellington House
Porter Street, Hull HU1 2RQ

International Women's Day Ethio - Habesha Event

Marking International Women's Day **Ethio - Habesha** with the support of **Women - Accede** and Humber Regional Research Delivery Network/NIHR Research Delivery Network is organising Women's Community Conversation on Health research.

Date Saturday 8th March

Time 10:30am - 3:30pm

Venue Hull Afro Caribbean Association (HACA)
25/26 Park St, Hull HU2 8RR

Email: womenaccede@gmail.com



WELCOMING & SUPPORTING ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

Welcome House is a local registered charity, set up in 2020, working across Hull and East Riding, offering **welcome** and support to asylum seekers and refugees in order to make them feel **welcome**, included and supported, in collaboration with Hull City Council, people, civil, business, charitable and public sector organisations, faith communities, volunteers and staff under the auspices of the Board of Trustees.



Tel: 07913 120198
hello@welcomehousehull.org.uk
https://welcomehousehull.org.uk/



**Inclusive Volunteer Award
WINNER**

Ayosola Odunsi

I joined Welcome House project in September 2021 as a volunteer and later became volunteer coordinator and Team Leader, supporting asylum seekers located centrally. My responsibilities include recruiting and training volunteers, as well as managing DBS checks and references. I advocate for migrants, assist with form filling and provide guidance in accessing health and professional support.

I represent the Welcome House project by raising awareness of its services and initiatives. I connect with schools to engage pupils through talks and presentations, sharing key facts and figures about our work. Additionally, I support individuals with employability, helping them transition into the workforce. I find inspiration in working alongside dedicated individuals and I enjoy my role.

“Welcome House work hand in hand, striving having one goal which is to help people and a positive influence in their lives”

Tel: 07908 689626
Email: ayosola.odunsi@welcomehousehull.org.uk

Welcome House celebrates Women’s History Month and the amazing contributions communities and individuals have made and continue to make, to life in Hull and the UK.

Warda

Welcome House Support Worker



Warda’s story is inspiring and highlights her dedication to both her work and community. As a mother of five who moved to Hull from Algeria in 2013, she has navigated the challenges of adapting to a new country and culture. Her multilingual skills in Arabic, French and English make her an invaluable asset to the Welcome House for Asylum Seekers, where she provides support to single mothers and families.

Warda’s role became more significant when she was the first person to join the project during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. This highlights her commitment and resilience, especially during such a difficult time.

Her passion for bringing different communities together in Hull, combined with her Muslim faith, shows how deeply she values inclusivity and connection. Warda’s work is not only about offering practical help but also fostering unity and understanding among diverse groups in her community.



Welcome House Women’s Drop In Session, Thursday 6th March, will mark International Women’s Day, in support of Women’s History Month.

DROP IN FOR WOMEN RUN BY WOMEN

Women's History Month 2025

Maurice Rawlings Community Centre
41 Bean Street

Presents
Warm Space with Free Cultural Food
All Welcome
Every Monday and Friday
3.30pm – 6pm

Starting 13th January 2025 we will be serving Falafel snacks, hot and cold drinks.
Every week we plan to change the food choice, come and try new food, meet friends in our warm space.

Come along and bring your children, fun for all the family.

Contact: Manel mobile 07444783471 to book a place.



WOMEN'S DAY COOKING AT OPEN DOORS (HULL)

International Women's Day

- Saturday 8th March 2025
- Open Doors, 51 Princes Avenue, Hull, HU3 3QP

TIME: 10AM - 4PM

FOOD AND MUSIC

FOR MORE INFO CALL 07523947495

The Open Doors Project
Princes Avenue Methodist Church
51 Princes Avenue, Hull HU3 3QP




Fairtrade Workshop
FREE TO ATTEND

Friday 28th March
2pm - 4pm

Maurice Rawlings Centre
41 Bean Street, Hull HU3 2PX

CRAFTS - FUN - GAMES
REFRESHMENTS

For more information contact
Manel on 07444783471 or
alternatively Karen on 07523947495

BE THE CHANGE




Better butter makes life better!

Debbie Morrell & Manel

Debbie Morrell
Friends of Kneeshaw Park
Email: debbiemorrell@hotmail.com
Phone: 07403686590

Girls Youth Session
Monday Night 4pm - 6pm



For more information
Contact Manel
Phone: 07444783471



I'm **Kayley Rankin**, 25 years old who has always had a passion for being outdoors, in nature and in making a difference for people both mentally and physically and enhancing the natural environment for wildlife to thrive. After doing quite a lot of volunteering in the outdoor sector at nature reserves and at where I am working now, I have developed skills to now have a successful career in the sector.

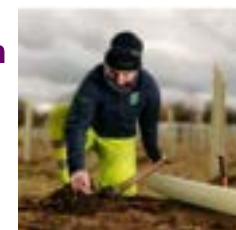
Over the 4 years I have worked at The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) I have increased my skill set from a temporary trainee to present day of being a full time Senior Project Officer specifically managing the large-scale tree planting projects across the East Riding, Hull and North Lincolnshire, working closely with landowners, creating species mixes, overseeing large scale logistics weekly and managing volunteers.

I now connect with many different people daily who want to do their part for the environment and get out tree planting ranging from working with school children and colleges to inspire the next generation, to local businesses who want to have a change from their day to day and for people who have retired and want routine- it is open to anyone! Volunteering in the outdoor sector allows you do something different, gets you out in nature away from desktops etc, boosts your mental health, learn something new as well as it been worthwhile and rewarding.

We at TCV Hull and Humber facilitate for people to learn skills to add to their CV and I personally have retained my contact at the University of Hull and have been a regular visitor to the University to speak to students about the benefits of volunteering, attend and speak at conferences held there and I also facilitate for the lecturers and students to come out each year on the same module I studied 5 years ago and that makes me very proud.

We have a whole bunch of tree-mendous volunteers of all ages- have a look at our [Facebook](#) page. Anyone wanting to get stuck in volunteering please email Humber@tcv.org.uk.

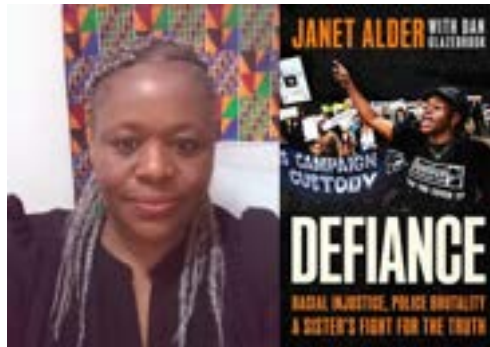
Kayley Rankin
Senior Project Officer
07554 117129
The Conservation Volunteers
4 Goodwin Parade,
Adelaide Street Hull HU3 2HA



Women's History Month 2025



Janet Alder



Pritti Mistry

17 October 2024

'This is a story - among many others - of justice denied. Fighting this battle over the past quarter of a century has been a lesson in collusion, cover-up and all the sophisticated - as well as the crude - methods employed by different parts of the British state to maintain the status quo, protect itself and those in its employ and evade justice . . .

This book is my attempt to bring some kind of accountability, simply by telling the truth.'

The police killing of Christopher Alder was one of the most notorious deaths in custody in the UK, involving the destruction of evidence, a whitewash of an investigation and illegal surveillance.

Christopher's sister Janet has been relentlessly fighting for justice for decades, and fearlessly holds the UK's state institutions to account in this extraordinary book.

This book is a probing expose of what went on, based on exhaustive documentary evidence, as well as the personal story of Janet's fight to uncover the truth.



Ms Alder said: "I've exhausted every avenue, every institution, as far as trying to get justice for Christopher and for my family and it's never happened, so I felt that I needed to write everything down."

Book on sale on Amazon



The Black Heritage of Hull is a service led by Black lives in support of racialised communities. We offer anti racism consultancy and training to institutions, businesses and public services.

In addition we run a monthly social group for people of colour to have safe spaces to gain access to mentorship and support when faced with racial barriers. We also collaborate with creatives in the city to produce, curate and inform art and music that amplifies racially marginalised voices and experiences.

The Black Heritage of Hull will be celebrating **Olive Morris**

Date 14th March

Time 6:15pm

Venue @The Edge Hub.

The Life and Activism of Olive Morris - Hudda Kharieh



Justina Oraka

TJ Training & Consultancy celebrating Women's History Month

Justina Oraka owns her own training consultancy not for profit social enterprise which is dedicated to imparting knowledge, building capacity and Improving health and well being, working hard to improve community cohesion.

CVS Wednesday 12th March 10am - 12pm

CVS Thursday 13th March 1pm - 3pm

Lonsdale Community Centre Friday 14th March 10am - 12pm

Join our discussion on the impact of equality on the women I work with who are from different Black and minority backgrounds. Q & A Session.

SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING WOMEN



Humber Community Advice Services - H-CAS
'Extending a helping hand'

We are a registered voluntary sector organisation providing information, advice and guidance to people from the ethnic minority communities in Hull and the surrounding areas. Our services extend across a range of issues including:-

- Money and debt issues
- Housing
- Employment
- Benefits
- Community engagement
- Immigration
- Health and well-being
- Education and training
- Job search, etc

Our contact details: Humber Community Advice Services (H-CAS),
 Centre 88, Saner Street, Hull, HU3 2TR

Tel: 01482 236460 or 07342 153452



Create and Express are inspired by the British Council's Active Citizen programme. We are a Non-for-profit BAME led arts organisation using music as a tool for mitigating and raising awareness of Sickle Cell, Blood donations and on social issues impacting Hull BAME communities and raising

@CreateandExpressLtd



Hull Swahili Diaspora project 'Roots' - Part 1
 The project aims is to support the rescue the Swahili Culture from being lost due to the impact of immigration.



"Promoting the well-being of Black minority (BME) and migrant communities throughout the Hull and Humber since

Humber All Nations Alliance (HANA) is a registered charity

- Governed by local people and imbedded within the communities we support.
- Supporting BME and migrant communities by providing them with a voice, advocating on their behalf and representing their interests.
- Aiming to build relationships between communities and services by providing them with support and activities that encourage community co-operation.
- Co-ordinating projects and events that are tailored to the needs of our communities and encourage the celebration of culture.



Providing a safe and warm welcoming place for socialising:

Probably 60 to 70 people from more than 20 nationalities sit under one roof and benefit each others experiences and get to know each other. A dedicated team of kitchen volunteers cook fresh food and serve nearly 50 to 60 clients weekly.

Open Door provides Used Clothing and household items donated by the public:, befriending and advocacy, Basic English and spoken Language, Raising Awareness to the problem through events and talks and opportunities for Volunteers from various backgrounds and cultures These types of products are donated by the public or organisations. They are put out on tables for clients to take according to their need.

Learning in informal classes I through music is helping people who are going through loneliness, isolation, stress, depression and may have gone through various kind of traumas. This class brings them enjoyment and relief, and help them to manage their frustration and stress.

A dedicated group of volunteers work hard to produce a variety of vegetables from their allotment, vegetables used for the Thursday Lunch.

Women's History Month 2025

WINNER, THE PRESTON ROAD WOMEN'S CENTRE 25TH ANNIVERSARY 2000 – 2025



This year staff and volunteers from the Preston Road Women's Centre in Hull – also known locally as the Purple House and Winner, celebrate 25 years of providing services to women and children across Hull and beyond.

The centre has been flying the flag for women's rights and gender equality since it was set up in 2000 as part of the Preston Road regeneration programme. Originally a small group of local women who got together and forged a path for standalone services for women in Hull, they faced the barriers that women all over the world are still facing today, lower rates of pay, lack of childcare, limited options around education and employment and issues around domestic abuse.

The Centre currently offers women and girls from across Hull access to domestic abuse services, outreach support, nursery provision, accredited courses, a housing service, legal services, a volunteer programme and a young women's support project, all services operate with the aim of empowering women to make informed choices and celebrate the experience and diversity of women and all that incorporates.

Over the years services have directly helped more than 7500 women and engaged with many thousands more from its purpose-built building on Preston Road.

Over the last twenty five years the centre's achievements include:

- accommodation with purpose built one bed apartments, and plans for development of 24 more new properties
- Winning national and international awards for the quality and Innovation of its services
- Co-producing innovative social investment products in partnership with Big Society Capital and Social and Sustainable Capital
- Supporting Women's Sector organisations all over the UK to develop the Creating a multi-purpose anchor organisation for the community on Preston Road
- Consultation and empowering interaction with service users and stakeholders to develop services
- Establishing a one of a kind not for profit family law firm, Affordable Justice
- Offering a range of safe homes for women and children across the city
- Delivering new build in own services and sustainable ways of operating
- Developing a maintenance company employing and empowering tradeswomen in the city

As part of the 25 year celebrations the centre will be planning a range of activities and events including the celebration of International Women's Day on March 8th 2025, with a call to **#AccelerateAction** for women across the world.

You can find out more about the work of the Preston Road Women's Centre at www.purplehouse.co.uk



#AccelerateAction



Meet the Women's Players

Jade Key



Jade Key: Women's Player

I started playing rugby in 1997, after my dad took me to Boulevard to watch Hull FC. I saw the kids playing at half time and immediately wanted to do it. I started playing for West Hull.

When I hit year 7, I was no longer allowed to play with the team and had to stop playing due to the lack of girl's teams in the area. I didn't want to stop being involved with Rugby league so I qualified to become a referee, I refereed local matches and many cup finals with Yorkshire. Years later West Hull finally set up a team and I started playing again. 10 years later Hull FC setup a team.

My Ambition in rugby is to contribute to help the team succeed. I have experience on and off the field and I'm at the stage in my career where I guide my team players and pass on my many years of knowledge.

Although I'm small in stature, I've always tried to be a presence on the field and lead by example. I have been selected as part of the leadership group for 2025 and will look to provide support to the younger players along with hold the expectations of the team.

I'm also now in the position to give back to rugby league by helping to coach the U14s girls at Hull FC. I am privileged to be given this opportunity, and I am looking forward to passing my knowledge on to the future of Hull FC Women.



Lorien Pettit

Lorien Pettit: U16s Head Coach, Girls Rugby League Development Lead.

I have always had a passion for sport, growing up I participated in all sports from Rugby League to Gymnastics, Cheerleading and Cricket. My real passion for playing Rugby League came from training and playing within my Primary School Team, often being the only girl.

Once I reached 11 there was no opportunity for me to play Rugby League with the boys anymore, and no teams for girls of my age in the city, I stepped away from Rugby League and tried my hand at other sports whilst still attending Rugby League matches.

As I grew older my passion for Rugby League continued to grow, whilst I participated in Cheerleading and Figure Skating, I worked for a Sports Coaching Company in Barnsley who put me through my UKCC Level 2 in Rugby League.

My first opportunity to coach came through City of Hull's Girls Talent Hubs in 2021, before volunteering for Hull FC Girls on a regular basis starting with Coaching the U12s team within the same year. Throughout my time at the club, I have been honoured to see the girls pathway win League Leaders Shields, compete in Yorkshire Cup Finals, make their Women's team debuts and achieve Yorkshire and England DiSE representations. I have even had the opportunity to coach on the Yorkshire Talent Hubs with some of our other coaching staff.

Now in my role as Girls Rugby League Development Lead, I aspire to provide as many opportunities in Rugby League for female participants, whether this be as a player or as part of the coaching and support team. It's important to me that we can provide a pathway for the female game which supports our athletes on their careers, whether that be recreational or to pursue a career within the Women's Super League.





Nataliina Romano



Nataliina Romano: Women's Player

I have been playing rugby league for 22 years, it's a sport I hold very close to my heart. My passion for this sport started at a very young age not knowing whether it would be the sport for me I soon realised that the values of being a rugby player aligned with myself.

In my rugby career I have had the privilege to represent both Yorkshire and Lancashire at County Level, represent and lead as the captain, playing for the badge I've supported since birth, Hull FC. My ambition in life is to be the best version of myself for my daughter.



Thea Fatah

Thea Fatah: Hull FC U16s

My name is Thea Fatah and I play for Hull FC Girls under 16s and been playing for nearly 4 years I have always been a sporty person but only 4 years ago I found my passion for Rugby League. One reason why I love rugby league is because I love being in a team environment and my coaches tell me I'm a natural leader.

My ambition would be to be able to play in the women's super league hopefully for hull fc and if possible, play for England and it would be fantastic if I could travel and play in Australia in the Women's Super League. I would also love to coach people my skills and knowledge about the sport .one reason why I would love to get into coaching is that I've always had supportive coaches around me and would love to give that back to people one day especially young girls who want to play sports as I know what it is like been a young girl and trying to play sports.



Evie Sexton

Evie Sexton: Hull FC Women, York Valkyrie

My name is Evie Sexton, I'm 17 years old and I started playing rugby 4 years ago, I started in hull FC U16s where I completed 2 seasons before I moved up to hull fc women's team where I completed one season, before signing on to York Valkyrie for 2 years. During that time, I was selected for the England DiSE program which I'm on my second year of and also represented the Yorkshire talent hub in both years of my U16s.

I have really enjoyed my journey playing alongside my teammates. I also really enjoyed helping Hull FC win the League 1 Grand Final, it was a great way to end my time with the club. My ambitions for the future are to earn a regular starting spot in the York Valkyrie first team as well as hopefully progressing into the England seniors' squad, and then the ultimate goal playing in the NRLW in Australia. My skills for rugby league are my strength, speed, and communication with my teammates on the pitch.

Kacey Sexton

Kacey Sexton: Hull FC Women

Hi my name is Kacey I'm 18 and I've been playing rugby for about 4 years. I started in the Hull FC u16s team when I was 15 then I moved up into the women's team when I turned 16. I love playing for Hull FC and my future ambitions is to play in the Women's Super League.





Charlie Lawson

Charlie Lawson: Hull FC Women

I started playing rugby at age 4, for the West Hull Maggots team. My dad's friend used to help coach at the club and asked if I'd be interested in coming down and giving it a go. It wasn't long before I bought my first pair of boots!

I have fond memories of watching Hull FC play as a child; my grandad used to buy my sister and I a ticket and we went to as many games as possible. He has always supported me and my sporting career.

Unfortunately, at 6 years old, I had to leave West Hull. There wasn't enough female involvement at the time to help boost my progress, so I decided to take up athletics instead. Whilst I did enjoy it, I missed the physicality of rugby league. This was until I received an email one day about Hull FC setting up a female pathway, and I instantly signed myself up. I've been here ever since!

Though I'm not the eldest on the pitch, I am confident in what I do and enjoy helping others that need some support. I have been selected as a part of the leadership group for the 2025 season and was privileged to captain the squad to a Grand Final win in 2024; a memory I will never forget.

My ambition is to just help the female game grow. The rise in popularity and interest in women's sports has been stellar over the past few years, and I'm proud to be a part of such a supportive community. I'd like to see more young girls step up and take the leap towards rugby league. Hopefully the support, the friends and the fitness I have made and received can benefit them too.



Beth Johnson

Beth Johnson: Hull FC U14 Girls

My name is Beth Johnson I'm 13 years old from being born I've always been around rugby league my mum and dad are both rugby league coaches and have coached both my brothers who both played for Hull Wyke and now one plays for Hull FC, and one plays for Midlands Hurricanes. I've always been around there training and watched the develop and always thought I would like to play rugby league when I was younger the opportunities to play was not available for me.

When I was 9 I started to train for Hull FC girls but was too young to play. For the last 3 years I have played for Hull FC Girls. I have really enjoyed my time of being at the club I have learnt a lot and made so lifelong friends and learnt how to be a part of a team I also train for Hull Wyke girls who have recently started a girls section of the club which I also really enjoy I think everyone should have a chance to play the sport they love.

**Lorien Pettit
Girls Rugby League Development Lead**

T: 07791232760

E: lorien.pettit@hullfc.com

W: www.hullfc.com / www.hullfcfoundation.co.uk



The Allam Sport Centre, University of Hull, Inglemire Lane, Hull, HU6 7TS

Women's History Month 2025

DJ Methodz is funded by Hull City Council to engage with underrepresented groups. This project began with engaging young women DJs and has evolved to include young people with SEND and children who have sought asylum and young people from ethnic minorities.

After the initial success of the project, the Hull Music Service agreed to fund a weekly Young Women's DJ Group at The Albemarle Music Centre. Starting in September 2021, the group might be the only one of its kind in the country - fully funded and ongoing all year round.

Members of the group have performed at various events including Humber Street Sesh, the Creative Voice and Out Of The Box festivals, and the Residents Association at The Adelphi.

Currently, our youngest DJ is 9 and our oldest 19. This cross-generational exchange is also quite rare as most youth provision is dedicated to age ranges such as 10-13 or 13-16.

We typically have 8-10 members, some having been with us from the start, and some joining us more recently. The sessions are over-subscribed so there is now a waiting list, but if anyone is interested in joining they can:



email djmethodz@outlook.com or santino.roberts@hullmusicservice.com

Phone the Albemarle Music Centre on 01482 318800.

Liz Deez



"A woman in business in the arts."

I always knew from a young age at school that I wanted to pursue a career in art and design. I lived and excelled at art while at school. It seemed to be an option that was gender neutral, and if you had talent, you were rewarded for it. There also seemed to be so many varied pathways available to progress into higher education.

However, it isn't always what you know but who you know, and doors only opened when I met people, volunteered, and did speculative jobs. So my original imagined career path quite quickly changed direction according to who I met and where and when the work opportunities appeared.

I have found myself working in lots of different creative industries from being a textile printer, pattern cutter for a Mark's and Spencer supplier, theatrical costumier, community artist before finding myself running my own street theatre company.

I guess if I was to give advice to anyone starting out in the professional world whether it be creative or not, is to take opportunities when they arise, don't be afraid of doing daring things, take risks and above all else follow your passions.

Also, as a woman, I always have had my struggles with patriarchy, less so in the workplace, but more so in relationships. So girls, don't be side lined. Your life is just as important as theirs, fight for equality, and don't be afraid to stick up for yourself and value your dreams.

Times are changing, and things have moved on a lot since I was a teenager in the 1980s. With every new generation, I see young women with a renewed sense of independence and many more possibilities ahead of them."

Women's History Month 2025



Irene

Irene's story focuses from her maternal mothers' side of the family tree. Irene's mum Nelly was born into Hull's infamous Travelling Showmen, the Gallagher's, based predominately winter months in Hull. Nelly had four sisters Annie, Pat, Margaret and Rosie who died at a young age. Nelly also had five brothers Tim, Mickey, Billy Patrick and Joe. The family travelled the length and breadth of the country, never staying in one place except when they were based in Hull their permanent residency located in Porter Street flats, in their 'wagons' in the winter months.

Nelly grew up working alongside her brothers building up and pulling down machines and rides. When Nelly first met her husband, she was helping her brothers erecting the Waltzers at the very top in her hob nail boots and jeans with her "flaming red hair". Nelly only ever wore her jeans and would grow up handling 2 - 2 Winchester Rifle range which was a dangerous job.

Irene remembers her mum and legacy of being a grafter and known to do anything her brothers could do. Irene remembers stories of Nelly being made to run the 'Hoopla and Coconut' shy by her Grandma.

Irene has fond memories of her grandad decorating the wagons gold leaf. She remembers her grandad wearing a 'Pin Stripe' three-piece suit, wearing a thick gold chain and a 'fob' watch, describing him as resembling a 'gangster'. Irene's Grandad worked in the 'big arcade', didn't like banks and kept his money and possessions under his bed.

When Nelly met her husband, she could not read or write and it was her husband who taught her. Nelly passed away at the young age of 62 in January 1989 with her dad passing away in 2006, with Irene remembering her dad nick naming her as 'R'.

Irene has a family of her own husband Colin who is retired and two daughters Amanda Education improvement Officer and Keely a teacher. Irene will tell you she has inherited her mother's strength and can only describe her mother as proud and resilient.



Irene's mum & family

Travelling Showman - Gallagher

Irene in her words describes herself as having 'a fountain of knowledge' and shares stories with her brother Jim, of the family's past. Irene always visits Hull Fair and meets up with relatives, the new and particularly likes to reminisce of times gone by of memories of her mum with 'flaming red hair'.

Irene's dedication to her family's history as Travelling Showmen has played a significant role in shaping her strong work ethic. Today you will find Irene working hard at Wingfield Farm continuing sharing her stories.

Growing up in a family that thrived on movement, entertainment, and community engagement, she has developed a deep appreciation for hard work and perseverance.

Irene continues to honour her family's legacy by working tirelessly, and she finds joy in communicating and sharing rich stories with the public. Her commitment to storytelling not only connects her to her past but also allows her to inspire and entertain others today.



The **Hull History Centre** is an archive and local studies library that houses the combined collections of both the Hull City Council and Hull University archives and local studies resources.

This collaboration between Hull City Council, Hull University, and the Heritage Lottery Fund made Hull the first city in the UK to unite local council and university collections under one roof.

Contact us: hullhistorycentre@hcandl.co.uk

Tel. 01482 317500

Hull History Centre

Worship St, Hull HU2 8BG



Women's History Month 2025

Women's History Month 2025

Revolutionary Makers

Join us for a celebration of yarn crafting for peace and mindfulness.

**HULL
CENTRAL LIBRARY**
ALBION ST. HULL HU1 3TF

SATURDAY 29TH MARCH

12PM - 2PM

Free to attend

Bring your latest project and enjoy a day of talks and inspiration.

For more information call Karen on 07523947495



HULL LIBRARIES
...everything, and the books...

Anyone can use our libraries, whatever your age. We have 12 libraries across the city that provide a wide range of materials for loan, computers and internet access and a fantastic range of events and activities. We offer an excellent support service for schools and also have a home library service for those who are unable to get to a library.

Joining the library is free, as are most of its services and events. You can even access some of our information resources from the comfort of your home.

Hull libraries offer access to books, music and video DVDs and CDs, newspapers and magazines, plus a wide range of other material.

We offer information about the library service in different languages, large print and Braille on request. Books written in community languages are available at the Hull Central Library and other local libraries.

Pop in to your local library or explore our website and prepare to be amazed!

WOMEN OF WORDS

Hull's spoken word performance space with an all-female cast



Women of Words is an event series and platform for women writers, set up in 2016 as a response to what was then a male dominated scene. The stage is reserved for women, but men are and have always been, welcome in the audience. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month, from 2pm to 4pm at Hull Central Library.

Who: Elspeth Snelling

When: Wednesday 5th March 2 – 4pm

Where: Hull Central Library 1st Floor James Reckitt Reading Rooms. Lift access is available.

Central Library
Albion Street
Hull
HU1 3TF

Email - Hull.CentralLibrary@hcandl.co.uk

Telephone - 01482 210 000



Women's History Month 2025



Sameera Anwar West



My mum - Masooda Anwar nee Sheikh

Sameera Anwar West is a 2nd generation immigrant of Pakistani heritage who moved to Hull over a decade ago from the South of England. She is a Senior Employment lawyer by profession who has worked most of her career in the Film and Entertainment industry.

Post lockdown, Sameera decided to focus on workplace investigations and was recruited to head up a team of workplace investigators at Warner Bros. Discovery. Her team specialises in the investigation of concerns relating to bullying, harassment and discrimination across the WBD group of companies in the EMEA region.

Sameera is passionate about promoting a speak up culture at work and investigating concerns in an impartial and kind way. She has recently been working with the Creative Industries Independent Standards Authority (CIISA) to help establish industry-wide standards to uphold and improve behaviour and to prevent bullying, harassment and discrimination in the creative industries.

No profile of Sameera would be complete without acknowledging the role of her late mum, Masooda Anwar, who passed away last year. Masooda arrived in the UK from Kenya in 1965 and spent over 40 years working as a teacher. Following her retirement she decided to teach local kids for free in her home. Masooda instilled in Sameera a belief in self, unapologetic pride in your roots and a sense of duty to give back to your community.

Last year, on International Women's Day, Sameera honoured her late mother **Masooda Sheikh**, who passed away earlier that week, by sharing her mother's powerful story and journey. Despite the grief, Sameera chose to celebrate her mum's life, reflecting on her strength, resilience, and the impact she had on those around her. Through this tribute, Sameera not only paid homage to her mother's legacy but also shared the incredible story of a woman who shaped her life and the lives of many others.

Masooda Sheikh was born in 1930s pre-partition Karachi to a working class Asian family. When she was 3 months old her family joined a wave of families moving to Kenya. She was the oldest girl of 9 kids and helped raise her younger siblings.

She was a teacher. She was one of the first young women in the 1950s Kenyan Asian community to drive a car. The sight of their teacher in a car pushed other families to get their daughters to drive. If it was ok for Miss Sheikh to drive, then maybe it was ok for their daughters. She taught not just kids but older women in the Kenyan Asian community to speak English. At weddings it never failed to amuse me when elderly women would approach me to tell me that my mum was their teacher.

She was a sportswoman and played Tennis, Netball, Hockey and Badminton. She represented Kenya at netball (East African Schools regionals).

When her dad became ill, she became the family breadwinner and had to look for a second job to support her family. She found one as a radio presenter on Voice of Kenya. She adopted a pseudonym (Shama Bahan) and would discreetly exit the radio studio from a side entrance so fans waiting outside didn't know that the teacher Miss Sheikh was Shama.

She came to the U.K. in the 1960s and found a job as a SEN teacher at the Avenue School. At a time when racism was more overt she proudly, and unapologetically, wore flowing sarees to work.

She travelled the globe at a time when young women from her background didn't. Although she had a fear of heights, she pushed herself to climb and take in the sights from the top of the Great Wall of China. She sat opposite the Queen at the Opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics and marvelled at how a working class girl could have got one of the best seats in the house.

She fought breast cancer - twice. When it first happened to her she had the understandable "why me?" feeling. But the why became clear as she became a point person for Pakistani ladies in Reading dealing with cancer. She started a local community group in Reading and passed on knowledge including a session on checking your breasts.

Masooda took early retirement from teaching in the 1990s but the will to pass on knowledge didn't stop. She viewed her teaching as "sadaqah jariyah" (voluntary charity). She held a free class for local kids in our home to teach Quranic Arabic, Islamic studies, and Urdu. She ended up teaching over 50 kids in this way.

I wanted to remember and celebrate just a few of the many stories about her on International Women's Day.

My Mum - Masooda Anwar née Sheikh (15 October 1936 - 2 March 2024)

Women's History Month 2025



Sylvia Lily Okra

Sylvia was born in London to Hull in 1962 with her eight month old daughter and eventually became the wife of an African law student. They had two more daughters together.

In 1972 Sylvia was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a neurological disorder, but did not let it stand in her way. She campaigned for the multiple Sclerosis Society, supported others with the same condition, volunteered for the charity shop, wrote articles for the MS Newsletter and campaigned tirelessly, raising awareness of MS.

Whilst keeping 'busy' Sylvia studied for her O' levels, at the Hull College and passed with flying colours. Sylvia was one of the first members to set up a group to support Disabled Students at Hull College, in the 1970's which included making the late Sir Lord John Prescott a honorary 'SOD', Society of Disabled Students, which her legacy lives on.

Sylvia was left with a challenging situation when her husband qualified as a Barrister and left for Ghana in the mid - 1970s. With three daughters to raise and managing Multiple Sclerosis on her own she showed immense strength and resilience

Sylvia found solace and a sense of expression through writing and Poetry. Sylvia had a ambition to write a personal memoir or biography a way for her to reflect on her journey and perhaps even inspire others who faced similar struggles.

Sylvia sadly passed away in Hull aged 60 of Multiple Myeloma a type of cancer affecting plasma cells in the blood.

Sylvia has two granddaughters and three grandsons, we are all so proud of her!

My mum - Sylvia Lily Okra (17th August 1929 - 7th December 1989)

Judgement Day

Just because your leader
Cannot see eye to eye
Why do you take your brother's life?
And stand to watch him die?
Remember, he came into this world
Just the same as you
He also has a mother
May be a wife and children too.
He may be a different colour
Or worship a different way
But when facing death
It is to the same god he will pray
And when you meet your maker
Your victim could stand by your side
To plead for your forgiveness
For your act of homicide

Written by Sylvia Lily Okra

Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on different days in many parts of the world, most commonly in March or May.

"We don't have mothers day in Pakistani Culture but in islam there is Hadith (saying of the prophet) which says "Heaven lies beneath your mums feet" - It's really acknowledging that if you don't love and respect your mum, heavens doors won't open to you."

Quote Sameera Anwar West

Sameera enlightening us and paying homage to her mum as we Celebrate and commemorate **Mothers Day Sunday 30th March 2025.**



To all the women in our lives...

Motherhood, in all its forms, deserves to be celebrated. Whether through nurturing, guiding, or leading, women have shaped the world in countless ways. It's wonderful to honour them on Mother's Day and beyond.

Women's History Month 2025



Killing Me Softly singer Roberta Flack dies aged 88

The R&B singer Roberta Flack, best known for the hits *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* and *Killing Me Softly With His Song*, has died at the age of 88.

"We are heartbroken that the glorious Roberta Flack passed away this morning, February 24, 2025," said a statement from her representatives.

"She died peacefully surrounded by her family. Roberta broke boundaries and records. She was also a proud educator."

Flack had previously announced in 2022 that she had motor neurone disease, and could no longer sing.

Born in North Carolina and raised in Arlington, Virginia, the musician started out as a classical pianist. She gained a full school scholarship to Howard University aged just 15. Her classical training led her into teaching, but at night she'd accompany opera singers on piano, singing pop standards during the breaks.

"The whole while I was studying classical music, especially in my younger years, I was also doing a lot of doo-ron-ron, shoo-doo-bee-doo, all of that stuff, with my peers, so I've been fortunate enough to be surrounded by music all of my life, the Bach and the Chopin and the Schumann on one hand, and all the rhythm and blues," she explained.

Her recording career started after she was discovered singing in a jazz club by musician Les McCann, who later wrote that "her voice touched, tapped, trapped, and kicked every emotion I've ever known".

But she didn't score her first hit until she was in her 30s - when her recording of Ewan MacColl's *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* was used to soundtrack an explicit love scene in Clint Eastwood's 1971 film *Play Misty For Me*.

It was subsequently named song of the year at the Grammys. Flack won the award a second time the following year, for *Killing Me Softly With His Song*.

After topping the charts again in 1974 with *Feel Like Makin' Love*, Flack took a break from performing to concentrate on recording and charitable causes.

She spent much of the 1980s touring and over the course of her career, worked with artists including Donny Hathaway and Miles Davis.

In 1991 she returned to the charts with a duet with Maxi Priest called *Set the Night to Music* (from the album of the same name).

She also recorded an album of Beatles covers, called *Let It Be Roberta*, in 2012.

'True Soul'

According to the Guardian, Flack once told a journalist:

"What I consider myself is a soulful singer, in that I try to sing with all the feeling that I have in my body and my mind."

"A person with true soul is one who can take anybody's song and transcend all the flaws, the technique and just make you listen."

Mark Savage
Music Correspondent

24 February 2025



Roberta Flack (10th February 1937 - 24th February 2025)

The theme for International Women's Day (IWD) in 2025

"Accelerate Action".

The theme focuses on speeding up progress towards gender equality.

#IWD2025

Let's ACCELERATE ACTION for Women's equality

#AccelerateAction

Contact us

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Women's History Month

Hull University

Wilberforce Institute for the

Study of Slavery and Emancipation

27 High Street, Hull, HU1 1NE.

A month long celebration and commemoration of Women's History



WEAR PURPLE DAY
#goingpurplehull



**Saturday 1st March
until
Monday 31st March**

Celebrating Women's Achievement