

Education4Change: Bulletin 6

Challenging racism through conversation and curriculum

February 2021

The purpose of the bulletin is for Newham educators to use it as a vehicle to keep anti-racist conversations going in a safe and focussed way. In this bulletin there is quite a heavy football focus but, as you will see, the issues surrounding football and racism provide a good entry into Education4Change conversations.

In the news...

- **St. Luke's School**

In December 2020, Stop the Hate & Show Racism the Red Card, West Ham United (WHU) and Sky Sports News descended upon **St. Luke's Primary School, Canning Town** in response to a project Year 6 pupils had sent to WHU. The team was so impressed by the work that they informed Sky Sports News and they all had a socially distanced meet-up in St. Luke's hall. Ex-West Ham legend Leroy Rosenior (1988-92) spoke to the children about his experiences as a Black footballer.



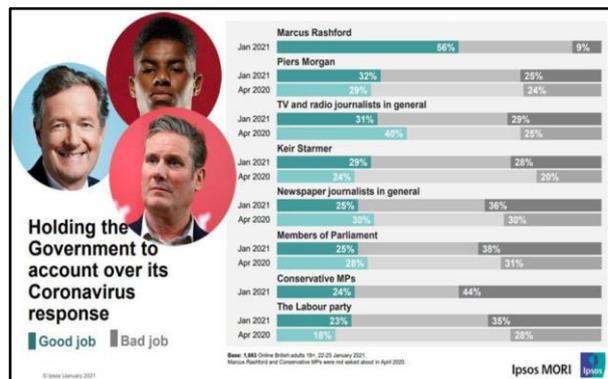
The **Stop the Hate** programme was launched in 2019, roughly 18 months after West Ham had to resolve an internal issue regarding their chief of recruitment, who encouraged the club to avoid signing African players as they *“caused mayhem when not in the team”*. He was banned for a year by the FA. The **Stop the Hate** campaign has the potential to bring about positive change but will ultimately be seen as a reactionary measure. Recently, three black Manchester Utd players Marcus Rashford, Axel Tuanzebe and Anthony Martial, were racially abused and blamed for losing a game. With stands closed, racist fans have found a way to continue their abuse through social media and anonymous accounts.

On 7th February, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester City and Manchester United issued a joint statement condemning racist abuse, *“We stand shoulder to shoulder in saying there is no room for racism, hate or any form of discrimination in our beautiful game. It should not happen and it must stop.”* Prince William has also spoken out stating that *“Racist abuse – whether on the pitch, in the stands, or on social media – is despicable and it must stop now.”* raising pressure on social media companies to clamp down on racism.

E4C discussion point: These are both strong statements from influential people. So, what should happen now?

Marcus Rashford - a role model...

The footballer has continued his free school meals campaign. Marcus refused to be riled by recent online abuse and simply stated that he was proud to be black. He did not rise to the abuse, being mindful that many of his followers are children and setting another example of being a good role model. Interestingly, in a recent Ipsos-MORI poll, the public voted for Marcus Rashford as the favourite for holding the government to account over Coronavirus. (See picture)

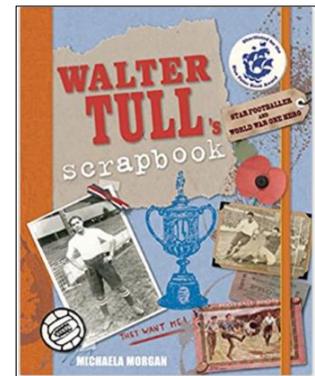


Looking back...Walter Tull, another role model, 1909



Racism in football is not new. Walter Tull faced similar issues to Marcus Rashford, a hundred years ago. While he was playing for Tottenham Hotspur against Bristol City in 1909 the racial abuse from opposing fans was described in the article *“Football and the Colour Prejudice”*. It claimed that he showed great humility in the face of the horrific abuse, and that *“he is so clean in mind and method as to be a model for all*

white men who play football ... Tull was the best forward on the field.” This was the first time racism in football was discussed in a national newspaper. His story is made more poignant, as he became the first black Army officer in the First World War. In 1918, he was killed on the battlefield and his body was never recovered. His bravery saw him posthumously recommended for a Military Cross. A book entitled *“Walter Tull’s Scrapbook”* documenting his story is a fantastic resource for children to learn about prejudice, bravery and humility recommended for use with KS2.



Challenging racism through conversation

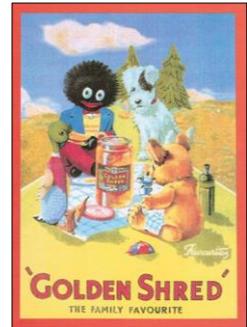


On a visit to the Isle of Wight in October 2020, two Newham educators spotted these knitted ‘tea-pot’ covers in a gift shop; they were labelled ‘Jolly Golly - £6.99 each’. Those of you who have read **Bulletin 3** will recall how children at **Hartley School** in **East Ham** took part in the campaign to stop Robertson’s jam using the offensive gollywog depiction as their retail brand. The fact that these teapot covers are being sold in 2020 (40 year later) shows we still have some way to go in educating society on antiracism.

E4C discussion point: What would you say to the shop owner?

Minstrels

Following on from the item above, David Olusoga, historian and author, spoke to **Newham Council** staff in December 2020 at the ‘I AM’ conference about the use of minstrels and ‘black face’ for entertainment (when white people blacken their faces). His view is that ‘black face’ is racial lampooning (ridiculing a group). The tradition started in 1834 and was still being shown on prime-time BBC in 1979 (See [‘The Black and White Minstrel Show’ here](#)).



What is alarming is that there are people who cannot see the offence in ‘black face’ lampooning. The *Black Piet* tradition still continues in the Netherlands (read more about it [here](#)).

E4C discussion point: What do Newham children make of this tradition?

Newham inspirational figures...

- **Jo Martin, first Black ‘Doctor Who’**

Jo Martin, best known for her role in *Holby City*, made history by becoming the first ever Black actor to play the lead role in *Doctor Who*. She has also appeared in *Fleabag*, *Batman Begins*, *Casualty*, *Silent Witness* amongst others.

Jo has lived in Newham for most of her life; she went to **Portway Primary School** in **Stratford** and then on to **Plasht Girls School** in **East Ham**. She told us that West Ham Park is one of her favourite places and has been going there since she was a little girl. She described watching the Punch and Judy shows that used to take place there and spending many hours cycling round the park and having picnics with her family.

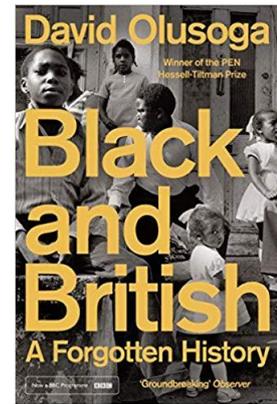


Jo is delighted that after 56 years on our screens, *Doctor Who* has finally cast a Doctor of colour: “I was a fan of *Doctor Who* back in the day and not seeing myself on screen as a child was tough. It’s an awful thing to grow up thinking it’s wrong to be Black. So, it’s fabulous that there are now characters like this who young kids can look up to.”

Further Reading

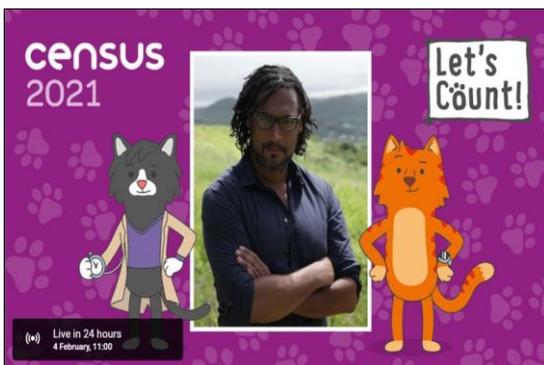
- **David Olusoga - 'Black and British'**

David Olusoga is an award-winning historian and broadcaster, presenter and film-maker of Nigerian heritage. David's new book, *Black and British*, tells the revealing story of the relationship between the British Isles and the people of Africa and the Caribbean. The book is about British history exposing the gaps in the nation's version of its past. Olusoga explores attitudes towards racism in Roman Britain, medieval times, Elizabethan 'blackamoors' and the global slave-trading empire.



- **David Olusoga... and the 2021 Census**

As part of the Census 2021 education programme Let's Count! Professor David Olusoga gave a [live lesson on Equality, representation and the census](#) at 11.00 on Thursday 4 February 2021



Here are some excellent teaching resources for primary and secondary schools to raise awareness of Census 2021 taking place in March:

- [EYFS, KS1 & KS2: Let's count](#) - Maths, CPSHE, Geography and History, Assembly videos, information for parents, etc.
- [KS3 & KS4- Let's make our story count](#) - History & Geography
- [KS3 & KS4- Statistopia](#) - Maths

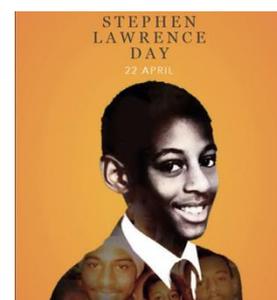
- **David Olusoga at Newham's 'I AM' conference December 2020**

One hopeful message was that times have changed. The anti-racism marches in the 1960s consisted of mainly black people. In 2020 people of all races were marching together, noting that the younger generation of white people are standing up for civil rights. Another reason why it is vital that antiracism is promoted in schools from Early Years upwards and why E4C is so relevant and important right now.

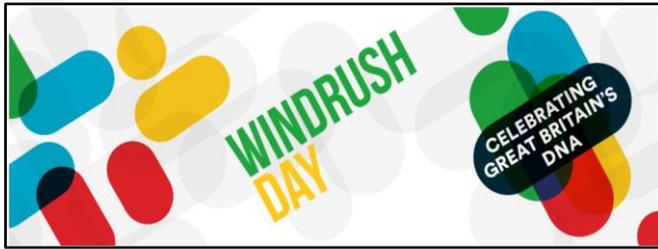
Looking ahead:

- **Stephen Lawrence Day: 22nd April 2021 (the date he was murdered)**

The day is officially marked in the British calendar as a celebration of Stephen's life and legacy. It fell during the first national lockdown in 2020.



- **Windrush day: 22nd June 2021**



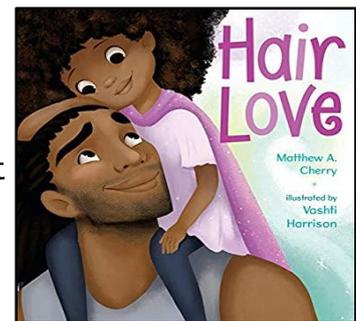
Empire Windrush arrived at the Port of Tilbury on 21 June 1948. The ship carried several hundred Caribbean migrants, many of them veterans of the Second World War. The term 'the Windrush generation' is said to apply to Caribbean people who arrived in

Britain between 1948 and 1971. This generation and subsequent migrants from all over the world, have made a huge contribution to our nation's cultural, social, and economic life. Newham Council has a [dedicated webpage](#) to celebrate and commemorate the contributions of the Windrush generation and their descendants.

And finally...

- ***Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry**

Hair Love is a 2019 Oscar winning book and short film written and directed by Matthew A. Cherry. It follows the story of a man who must do his daughter's hair for the first time. You can watch the film here and we challenge you not to be moved by this wonderful story.



Invitation to Newham schools

We welcome contributions from educational settings for the next E4C bulletin.

Please email the E4C Team:

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