

# Putting Black history on Hackney's map

## Discover Hackney's African and Caribbean heritage

**T**HIS illustrated map by artist Marcie Mintrose illuminates some of the borough's trove of African and Caribbean history.

It highlights significant moments in time, local landmarks, and legacies across Hackney, including Ridley Road Market and Centerprise

bookshop. Artist Marcie (illustrated, right) said: "Showcasing Black British figures has always been a significant part of my practice as an illustrator, so I was thrilled to have the opportunity to spotlight some of the key figures who have contributed to Hackney's rich heritage."

Her first solo exhibition to learn more about Marcie Mintrose's work, visit: [marciemintrose.co.uk](http://marciemintrose.co.uk)

'Windrush Women' was a series of 12 illustrations of influential Caribbean women which went on display in City Hall throughout the summer of 2018.



## Take a look: key people and places in Hackney

### 1. Eddie Martin Noble (1917-2007)

Born in Jamaica, Eddie arrived in the UK in 1943 to volunteer for the Second World War (1939-45). He was stationed at an RAF base in East Anglia and later settled in Hackney.

His autobiography, 'Jamaican Airman', led thousands of people to discover the Caribbean people's wartime contribution and inspired Andrea Levy's book 'Small Island'.

### 2. Joanna Vassa (1795-1857)

Joanna was the daughter of the African abolitionist and writer Olaudah Equiano (c.1745-1797). She lived at 12 Benyon Terrace, Buckingham Road, Hackney. The inscription on her tombstone in Abney Park Cemetery reads 'in memory of Joanna, beloved wife of Henry Bromley, daughter of Gustavus Vassa, the African. Born April 11, 1795 and died March 1857.'

### 3. Anthony

Hackney's earliest record of an African resident, noted in St John's parish records in 1630. He died poor but at a grand age of 105. The average life expectancy was 35 years at the time.

### 4. Dyke and Dryden

Len Dyke, Dudley Dryden and Tony Wade were the owners of the UK's first Black-led multi-million pound business selling African hair and beauty products at Ridley Road from the 1960s onwards. Both Dyke and Dryden were community activists alongside David Pitt (Lord Pitt of Hampstead) and Jeff Crawford.

### 5. Four Aces Nightclub

For over three decades, the Four Aces in Dalston attracted the most influential music and musicians to Hackney including Stevie Wonder,

Ben E. King, Desmond Dekker, Otis Redding, Count Shelly and Louisa Mark. Collins Tower, the building standing there today, is named after Sir Collins, the founder of the 'Rambling Rose' club. It was renamed the 'Four Aces' in 1966 when Collins partnered with Newton Dunbar, and others to make musical history.

### 6. Joseph Jackson Fuller (1825-1908)

Born into slavery in Jamaica, Joseph witnessed emancipation aged 13. Later he followed his father to Africa and became a missionary and spent 40 years in West Africa. He left in 1888, shortly after the 'Scramble for Africa' and settled in Hackney. Joseph died at 83. He is buried in Abney Park Cemetery.

### 7. SJ Celestine Edwards (c.1858-1894)

Celestine was born in Dominica and always had strong opinions about human rights. Moving to London in the 1870s, he worked as a building labourer and made public speeches in Hackney about religious, anti-racist and anti-colonial issues.

### 8. Visions Video Bar

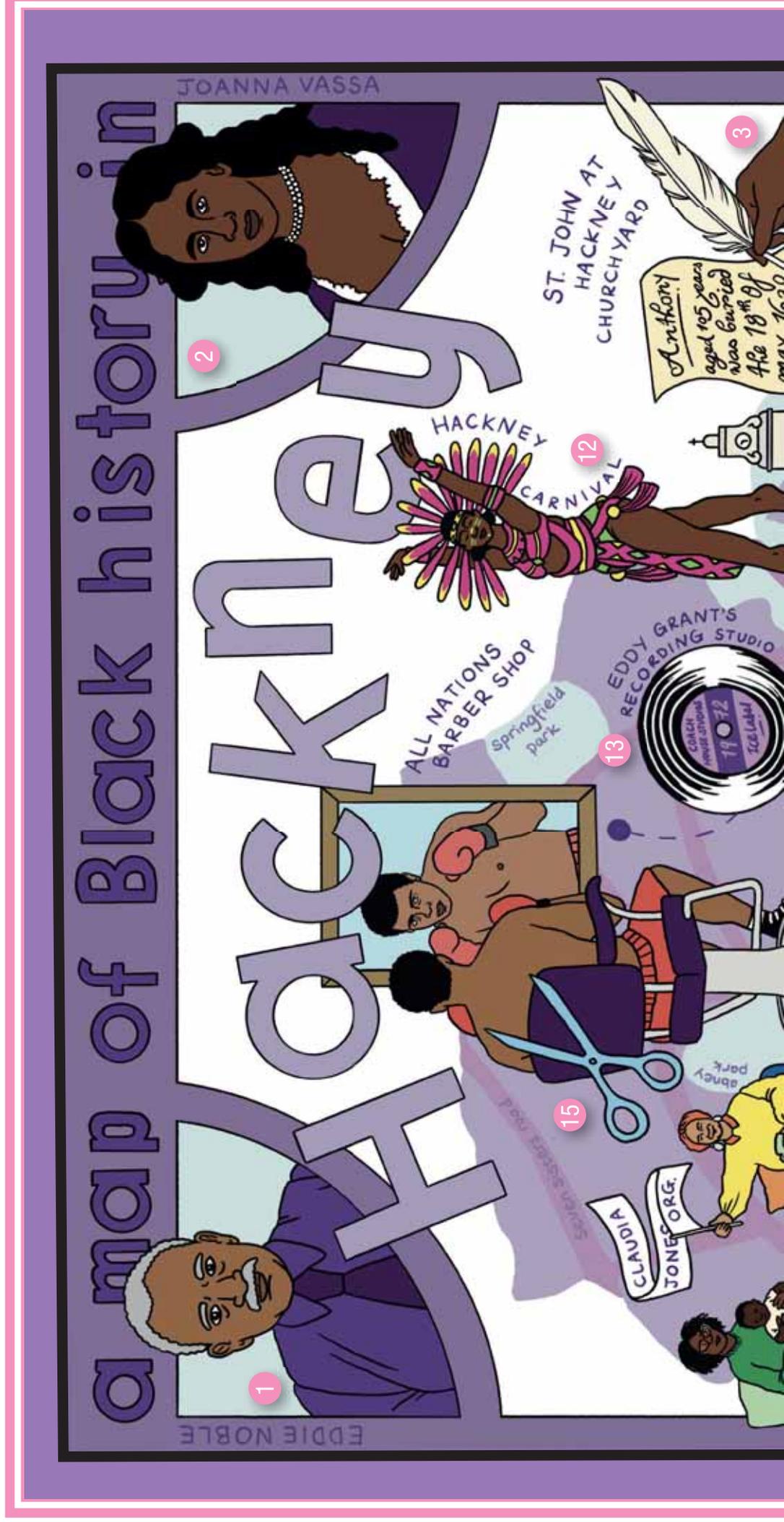
The venue began life as 'Visions Video Bar' in 1989, hosting hundreds of community events. It later became a popular destination for young people. Visions was a hotspot for Grime music and the film set for Skepta's 2016 video 'Man', a track from the critically acclaimed 'Konichiwa' album.

### 9. Rainbow Bakery

This family-run bakery and takeaway have been serving Hackney's communities for over 30 years. They bake fresh Caribbean breads, cakes and patties, and specialise in authentic St Lucian creole food.

### 10. Vivian Usherwood and Centerprise Bookshop and Community Centre

'Poems' by Vivian Usherwood, a Hackney schoolboy, was the second book published by Centerprise in 1972. Vivian was just 12 with a challenging home life, yet his work went on to be one of their most successful publications and still inspires today.





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**MORE INFORMATION**

Find out more about Hackney's fascinating Black history at: [hackney.gov.uk/black-history](https://hackney.gov.uk/black-history).  
 Look out for upcoming Black History Season events on: [facebook.com/HackneyBlackHistory](https://facebook.com/HackneyBlackHistory) and [lovehackney.uk/black-history-season](https://lovehackney.uk/black-history-season)

# H Hackney

**11. Fisk Jubilee Singers**  
 The Fisk Jubilee Singers gave the British public its first mass exposure to African-American music. Students at Fisk University, an African-American institution in Nashville, Tennessee, formed the group in 1871 to tour, fundraise and speak out for the right of all African-Americans to be educated. In 1873, they performed at Hackney Downs Chapel and the Hackney Juvenile Mission.

**12. Hackney Carnival**  
 Since the 1970s, Hackney has provided a home for carnival organisations. Each year more than 25 carnival and community groups join residents in celebration of Hackney's thriving cultures and outstanding creativity in an annual procession and festival that takes into the streets.

**13. Coach House Recording Studio, Stamford Hill**  
 The British Reggae Artists Famine Appeal was a project that brought together 200 reggae artists, including a host of Hackney's musical legends, in 1985 to raise money to support the victims of famine in Ethiopia. Recorded at Eddie Grant's studio in Stoke Newington, the resulting record, 'Let's Make Africa Green Again' was launched in Shoreditch Park and raised over £8,000.

**14. Claudia Jones Organisation**  
 In 1982, the Claudia Jones Organisation was established by a group of local Caribbean women. Still active today, the organisation's vision is to build a culture of aspiration, where women of African-Caribbean heritage are supported to reach their full potential.

**15. Mr Knight's barber shop/All Nations barber shop**  
 Owner Ugent Knight, a Jamaican entrepreneur, was famous for giving trims to stars like boxing legend Muhammad Ali and soul superstar Marvin Gaye. All Nations was more than just a barbers, it was a true community hub, even providing a basement rehearsal space to some of Hackney's finest jazz and reggae musicians. Continuing the tradition of African-led business, All Nations Vegan House trades from the same spot today, serving up delicious African-Caribbean food.