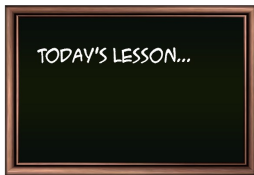


# Black History Month



Black History Month takes place every October and is a time to celebrate, educate and raise awareness of the African and Caribbean culture across society.

Throughout October, our staff are celebrating Black History Month by learning more about black history, sharing articles, books, films and documentaries

## Meet Sherrie Roach

Property centre services advisor

### Tell us about yourself.

“My name is Sherrie Roach and I am mixed raced. My grandad came over to the UK from Barbados in 1961 and set up home with my Nana who is English. My grandad has always instilled in me the importance of connecting with my black roots.”

### What does Black History Month mean to you?

“Black history is a part of my everyday life and therefore, for me, Black History Month is about educating and sharing my culture with people around me. I also take this time to reflect on my black roots and how far my family has come. Black History Month is an opportunity for me to share my history and my passion for my culture. I am extremely proud to be mixed raced but I can sometimes feel quite isolated as I look very “white passing” (this is where a person is classified as a member of a racial group or perceived as a member of another), which is why I think it is really important for people to understand more about our culture.”

### Why is it important for Golden Lane Housing (GLH) to support Black History Month?

“I think it is important for everyone to be able to appreciate the beauty that comes from the black community. It is also very important as we live in a multi-cultural society, which is reflected within the staff at GLH. So why wouldn't we embrace the diversity and beauty within all our different cultures, it's absolutely amazing.”



We'd love to hear how you've been celebrating Black History Month. Please send in any pictures to us on social media—make sure to tag in GLH:

Facebook: @goldenlanehouse    Twitter: @GoldenLaneHouse

# Black History Month



## Meet Nikisha Knight Compliance assistant

### Tell us about yourself.

“I am Nikisha Knight. I have been working in Property Management for 15 years and have been part of the GLH family for nine years working in the repairs and Compliance teams. I was born in Preston Lancashire in 1986. My grandmother was born in beautiful Jamaica and is one of seven children born in 1951 and came to England in 1966. My mother was the first of eight born in Preston, Lancashire and my father is the third born of seven in Jamaica. I have one brother who was also born in Preston. I am the eldest granddaughter - my grandmother has eight children, 22 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren. We have a massive family and I love it. Holidays are always fun, and we are all very close. I moved to Manchester when I was four years old with my mother and brother.

“I am now 35 years old and have a beautiful daughter called Keonah who is nine years old. She is a gymnast and attends stage school and dance classes every week, she has an amazing personality and has recently had her first casting for CBBC an anti-bullying and climate change programme. I have a very exciting social life and circle. I love to attend gigs; open mic nights and comedy shows on a regular basis, even more so after being in lockdown for so long. I love to meditate and have enjoyed helping friends, family and people in society over the last 12 years, start on a spiritual journey which is very rewarding for me.”

### What does Black History Month mean to you?

“For me, Black History Month (BHM) is a time for Black people to share and show other cultures our contributions in the world, our culture stems back way before slavery and many things have been untold, destroyed and discarded. We have a strong, rich heritage and the world would not be what it is today without our inventions, architecture, art, music, food, style, and soul contributions. It's a great time for us to educate people about the amazing things we have achieved and we should celebrate how powerful and resilient we are as people. It's also a great time to educate other cultures on the hardship we had and still have to go through. I am very proud to be a black woman and I love everything about my culture and want to share this with everyone. BHM is a great time to open conversations and continue to share the knowledge that the world has forgotten but still resides in our books and the memories of our families and in our souls.

“Some things that we are asked on a daily basis about various subjects about our culture in the workplace can be offensive and upsetting so I think it's important for organisations to get involved in conversations, raise awareness and offer training to help employees know more about Black culture.”