

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2020



UNITE THE UNION

CELEBRATING BLACK INVENTORS AND INNOVATORS

**A brief insight into the history of
Black people's contribution to society**



Where would society be today without inventors and positive creations of Black and Asian Ethnic Minority (BAEM) people in the community?

BAEM people have contributed greatly to our society and their input is often unknown or not found in our education or history books.

This year, Unite highlights key BAEM inventors and innovators for the part they have played in shaping our society, many of whom you may not be aware of.

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1889

William H. Richardson

Baby buggy

1945

Charles Drew

Blood plasma bag

1971

George T. Sampson

Clothes dryer

1892

Samuel R. Scottron

Curtain rod

1878

Osborn Dorsey

Door knob and stop

1882

Lewis Latimer

Electric lamp bulb

1867

Alexander Miles

Elevator

1880

Powell Johnson

Eye protector

1872

Thomas Marshall

Fire extinguisher

1914

Garrett Morgan

Gas mask

1899

George T. Grant

Golf tee

MAGGIE ADERIN-POCOCK

SPACE SCIENTIST

Born in London in 1968 to Nigerian parents, she has made novel, bespoke instrumentation in both the industrial and academic environments. These range from hand held land mine detectors to systems designed to monitor wind speeds and other variables in the Earth's atmosphere.

She is well known as a Space science expert and is a fellow of the Science and Technology Facilities Council. She has given talks to thousands of adults and school children and has also produced a free DVD, "Space in the UK", which is distributed through schools and science festivals across the country. She has received many awards and has an MBE for her services to science and education



DR. SHIRLEY THOMPSON

SYMPHONY CONDUCTOR/COMPOSER

Dr Shirley Thompson became the first woman in Europe to conduct and compose a symphony in Europe in 2004 called New Nation Rising. She has also written pieces for use in films, on television, by dancers and on stage.



RON HEADLEY

INVENTOR

Born in 1939 in Jamaica and moved to England at 15. Following a prolific cricket career, he moved into the motor industry where he invented the Ecocharger. This eco-friendly device tackles the problem of exhaust fumes by making more use of the fuel, allowing us all to breathe cleaner air. He calls his invention a "mini refinery under the bonnet".



DR. JANE WRIGHT

MEDICAL SCIENTIST

Dr. Jane Wright and her father Dr. Louis T. Wright (1891-1952) discovered and developed chemicals that attack and destroy cancer cells called chemotherapeutic agents. An effective treatment for most forms of cancer today.

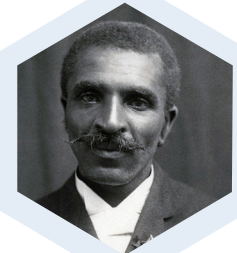


GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

INVENTOR/INNOVATOR – CHANGED AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE

George Washington Carver changed the agricultural landscape in the U.S. His inventions helped create easier ways to farm lands and transformed how we consumed products like sweet potatoes and peanuts. His agricultural science led the way to the organic food boom which we are experiencing now.

George spent 47 years teaching at Tuskegee University where he taught generations of Black students farming techniques, including methods of crop rotation, alternative cash crops to cotton that improved the soil. Between 1915 and 1923, he also discovered other ways of using peanuts, sweet potatoes, pecans and soybeans and farmers benefitted from this. His soil consultation in the South helped cotton farmers improve their yields, and his experiments on crops helped develop over 300 products we use today, like flour, insulation, paper, soap, shaving cream, and skin lotion.



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RONJON CHAKRAVERTY

INVENTOR

A bone marrow transplant physician, he led the research team at University College London and discovered a way of bone marrow transplantation in 2010. This research offers the potential to treat or prevent the relapse of blood cancer in patients following bone marrow transplantation.



JESSE EUGENE RUSSELL

INVENTOR – DIGITAL CELL PHONE/WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS

Jesse Eugene Russell was working as an engineer at AT&T-Bell Laboratories in 1988, he created the concept for the wireless digital phone and communication. Many people attribute the invention of the smartphone to Europeans, but in fact the first digital cell phone was invented by an African American man named Jesse Eugene Russell. At the time, mobile devices were mainly used in vehicles, so Russell designed a cell phone that could transmit signals between handsets and cell phone towers.



Doing so would make mobile phones handier and affordable. Russell once said "Most of the time people are not in their cars. So, why don't we just take the phones out of the car and put them on the people."

Russell is responsible for other innovations in the field of wireless communications systems. He also created a company based in New Jersey called incNETWORKS Inc, a broadband wireless communication system that focuses on 4G broadband wireless communications technologies, networks and services.

KULDEEP KAUR BHANGAL

ANTI-MRSA INVENTION INSPIRED BY FORMULA ONE RACING DRIVERS

A specialist registrar in orthopaedics, she invented the Multi-layered Disposable Apron in 2005 for which she won the NPSA Award for Best Innovation in Patient Safety at the Medical Futures Innovations Awards. She was inspired by watching Formula 1 drivers tear off their disposable, see-through visors during a race so she developed this apron specifically for nurses, doctors, physiotherapists and others to combat MRSA and other hospital acquired infections

THOMAS L. JENNINGS

INVENTOR

Most historians agree that he is the first African American patent holder in the United States. Jennings invented a way to dry-clean clothes in 1821.

GEOFF PALMER

PROFESSOR – INNOVATIVE GRAIN SCIENTIST

Born in 1940 in Jamaica, he came to England when he was 14. He is a grain scientist as well as a human rights activist. He received two patents for malting process in 1973-1975.

He is a Professor Emeritus at Heriot-Watt University of Edinburgh, the first black professor in Scotland. In 2002 he was awarded the Good Citizenship of Edinburgh award for exceptional contribution to community work and good race relations.

In 2003 he received an OBE for his contribution to grain science.

1898

Lydia O. Newman

Hair brush

1883

Walter B. Purvis

Hand stamp

1887

Sarah Boone

Ironing board

1891

Paul L. Downing

Mail box

1893

Thomas W. Stewart

Mop

1839

Edmond Berger

Spark plug

1890

Charles B. Brooks

Street sweeper

1960

Frederick M. Jones

Thermostat control

1923

Garrett Morgan

Traffic light

1753

Benjamin Banneker

Clock

2005

Kuldeep Kaur Bhangal

Anti-MRSA invention

2010

Ronjon Chakraverty

Physician inventor:
Bone marrow transplant

- IT'S TIME TO RECOGNISE BLACK and ASIAN INVENTORS for their contributions for the good of our society.

Time to encourage better understanding and enhance our multi-cultural society.

- Let's celebrate our inventions by promoting SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGHOUT SOCIETY – where black heroes are acknowledged, respected and celebrated.

- TIME FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION OF BLACK HISTORY IN THE UK CURRICULUM.

A well-deserved commitment to promote tolerance, fairness and justice ensuring BLACK LIVES DO MATTER.



EDITABLE STROKE

